

Florida

Venison—Handle With Care
Florida Tourist Hunter

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1968

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

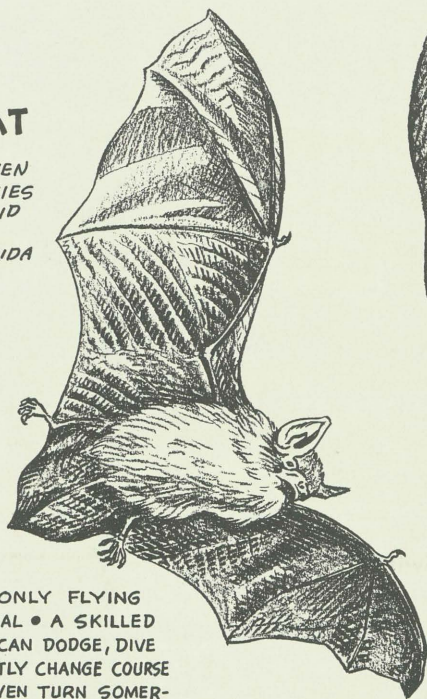


Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

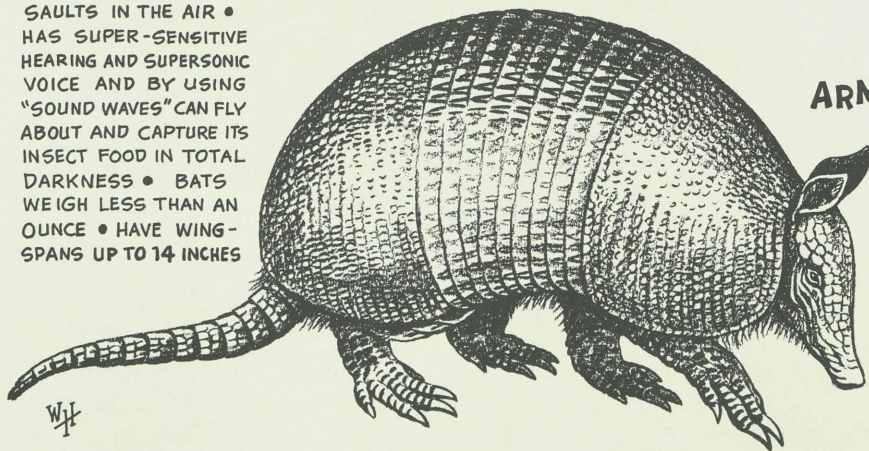
FLORIDA'S CURIOUS MAMMALS

BAT

ELEVEN
SPECIES
FOUND
IN
FLORIDA



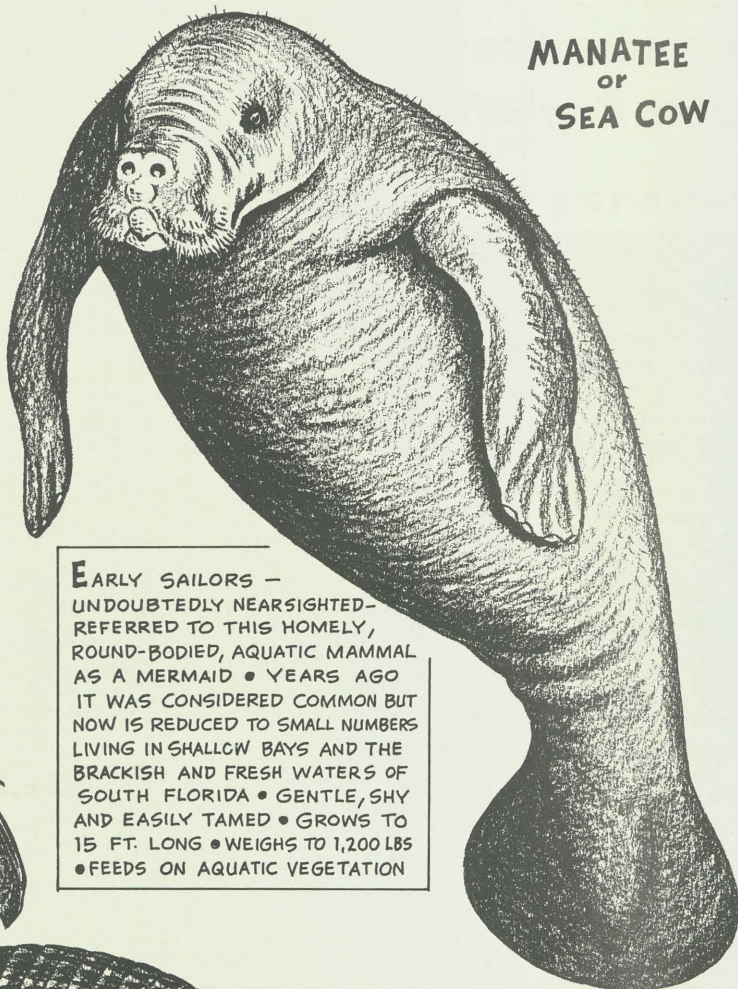
OUR ONLY FLYING MAMMAL • A SKILLED FLYER CAN DODGE, DIVE ABRUPTLY CHANGE COURSE AND EVEN TURN SOMERSAULTS IN THE AIR • HAS SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING AND SUPERSONIC VOICE AND BY USING "SOUND WAVES" CAN FLY ABOUT AND CAPTURE ITS INSECT FOOD IN TOTAL DARKNESS • BATS WEIGH LESS THAN AN OUNCE • HAVE WING-SPANS UP TO 14 INCHES



ARMADILLO

INSTEAD OF DENSE HAIR - OUR ONLY MAMMAL COVERED FROM HEAD TO TOE - TO TAIL - WITH SHELL-LIKE ARMOR • ALWAYS GIVES BIRTH TO IDENTICAL QUADRUPLTS ALL MEMBERS OF THE SAME SEX • GRUBS AND DIGS IN THE SOIL FOR INSECTS - ITS MAIN FOOD • BURROWS UNDERGROUND • HAS POOR EYESIGHT & HEARING • SIZE OF A HOUSE CAT • WEIGHS UP TO 15 LBS • GOOD TO EAT

MANATEE or SEA COW



EARLY SAILORS - UNDOUBTEDLY NEARSIGHTED-REFERRED TO THIS HOMELY, ROUND-BODIED, AQUATIC MAMMAL AS A MERMAID • YEARS AGO IT WAS CONSIDERED COMMON BUT NOW IS REDUCED TO SMALL NUMBERS LIVING IN SHALLOW BAYS AND THE BRACKISH AND FRESH WATERS OF SOUTH FLORIDA • GENTLE, SHY AND EASILY TAMED • GROWS TO 15 FT. LONG • WEIGHS TO 1,200 LBS • FEEDS ON AQUATIC VEGETATION

Florida WILDLIFE

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★

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The Cover

A charming fur-bearing animal to observe—industrious and clever—the Raccoon can be found throughout Florida. It will offer both sport and entertainment for the sportsman. See page 15.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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Commission Director Receives Special Award

Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, was the recipient of the 1968 Gold Merit Award, presented annually by Associated Industries of Florida.

Frye was honored at the annual meeting of the AIF, a statewide business and industry group, in October at the Sheraton-Four Ambassador Hotel, Miami. The award presentation was made by Governor Claude R. Kirk, Jr.

In citing Dr. Frye, William C. Kercher, AIF president, said, "During the 22 years that Earle Frye has served Floridians as an employee of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission his philosophy has been that sportsmen should be treated as responsible citizens who are concerned with the welfare and well-being of the state's wildlife resources.

"He has felt that restrictive regulations are frequently not in the best interest of sound and progressive wildlife management. His leadership has been the guiding light in the establishment of Flor-

ida Wildlife Management Areas and public hunting programs."

Dr. Frye's accomplishments have gained him wide recognition in the United States. He received the American Motors Conservation Award in 1966 as one of the nation's ten most outstanding professional conservationists.

The coveted Gold Merit Award is presented each year by the AIF in recognition of "outstanding display of a businesslike approach to management problems in state government by a career state employee."

Frye, a University of Florida alumnus (B.S., '39; M.S., '41 and Ph.D., '54) and World War II combat bomber pilot, was employed by the Commission as a game biologist in 1946. He became assistant director in 1951 and director in 1965.

He and his wife, Barbara, who is bureau manager for United Press International in the Capitol, live in Tallahassee. They have two children, Scott, 12, and Leslie, 9.

Florida Wildlife Federation Conservation Awards

EIGHT FLORIDA conservationists, two clubs, a newspaper and a state agency were honored in September at the annual Conservation Fund Awards Banquet held under the auspices of the Florida Wildlife Federation and sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. The 1968 banquet was held at Miami Beach in conjunction with the 26th annual Federation meeting.

Unique trophies—statuettes symbolic of American wildlife—were presented to the winners in ten conservation categories. They were:

Nathaniel P. Reed, Hobe Sound—Outstanding Conservationist.

A. D. "Bob" Aldrich, Webster—Wildlife Conservation.

Jimmie Yates, Kissimmee—Youth Conservationist.

Charles O. Allan, Calloway—Forestry Conservation.

Col. Albert B. Marshall, Umatilla—Soil and Water Conservation.

Ken Woodburn, Tallahassee—Salt Water Resources Conservation.

Howard M. Weenick, St. Petersburg—Adult Guidance of Youth.

McGregor Smith, Miami—Special Conservation Award.

Oceanside Woman's Club, New Smyrna Beach—Conservation Education.

Save Our Bays Association, Sarasota—Conservation Organization.

The News-Herald, Panama City—Conservation Communications.

Forest Education Branch, Florida Board of Forestry, Tallahassee—Award of Merit.

The annual awards program is designed to recognize and encourage outstanding achievements in the conservation of Florida's renewable natural resources and the preservation of natural beauty.

"Go-Go Fish" Demonstration

CLEWISTON 4-H clubber Marsha Pennington recently won top individual honors at the Florida State 4-H Club Congress with a colorful food and nutrition demonstration called "Go-Go Fish." The competition, between ten district champions, was held at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Marsha's demonstration featured the selection, storage, preparation and serving of family seafood dishes. She had previously won blue ribbons at the South Florida Fair and in 4-H District X competition—over representatives of six East Coast counties.

This was the second consecutive state championship for Marsha, who won last year with a citrus foods demonstration. A veteran of seven years in 4-H club work, she is a member of the Lake Harbor club, sponsored by South Bay Growers, Inc., South Bay, Florida.

Marsha is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Pennington, Clewiston. ●

Atmosphere Studies

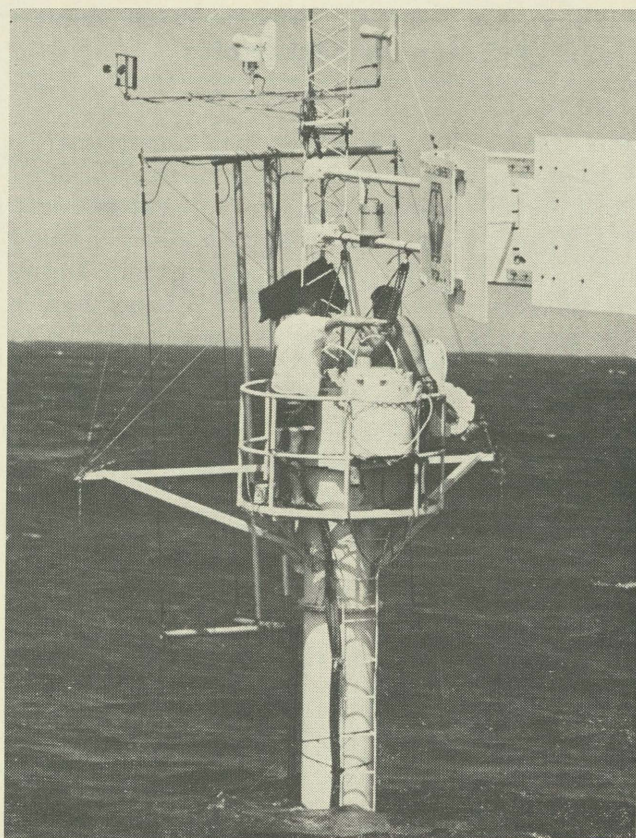
RECENTLY RETURNED from three months in the "boiler room" of the world's atmosphere, a group of Florida State University scientists now have five years' work ahead of them analyzing meteorological records from the Barbados Project.

During July and August the group, in collaboration with scientists from several other universities and laboratories—all under the direction of Dr. Michael Garstang, a meteorologist in FSU's Oceanography Department—made the most ambitious study ever made of the top layers of the tropical ocean and the atmosphere above it. It is in this region, extending from the top layers of the ocean to the cloud layer about 2000 feet above it, where much of the sun's heat soaked up by the tropical ocean is released to the atmosphere to power weather systems, including hurricanes, moving into other latitudes, Garstang said.

Using aircraft, towers, tethered and free floating balloons, ships and specially designed buoys, the group of about 70 scientists, graduate students and technicians made records of temperatures, moisture, wind speed and direction, ocean currents and cloud cover—and these records, principally on magnetic tapes, were brought back to the campus by the FSU group, which returned in an Air Force Globemaster plane.

Barbados was chosen for the project because this relatively flat island is the most easterly one in the West Indies, extending out into the Atlantic athwart the constantly blowing trade winds, which aid the

A wind gauge being adjusted on the island.



The Triton is anchored 15 miles east of the island, only 30 feet, including mast, showing above water.

process of mixing latent heat in the form of water vapor, with the air above the sea.

Measurements were made principally along a 90-mile line extending from the 303-foot long ship Discoverer anchored 60 miles east of Barbados to a buoy anchored 15 miles west of the island. Towers on the east and west sides of the island and in the center carried other instruments, along with the buoy Triton anchored 15 miles east of the island. This buoy had instruments along a 30-foot mast sticking out of the water, and the mast was held in a constantly vertical position, despite heavy seas, by a metal section extending for 100 feet beneath the surface.

Participating in research was a group of high school science teachers under the direction of Dr. Ken Warsh of FSU.

Warsh said the expedition encountered no heavy storms, although the tropical storm Edna boiled up far to the east of the area shortly after the FSU crew returned. High seas at one time caused a rubber boat to upset, ditching its occupants and losing all gear.

Most of the FSU group went to Barbados on June 6 to set up research equipment.

Next summer, an even more ambitious study of the area is scheduled and FSU will participate also in this. Later, in 1970, Garstang says, a sea-air study is expected to be made over portions of Florida and the adjacent Gulf. ●

THE Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is asking hunters on the Lykes Brothers Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area in Glades County to return any strange looking hardware found attached to any wild turkeys bagged there during the 1968-69 season. As an incentive, every hunter who does will receive a free 3-year subscription to FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

"There is a fair chance that some of the 24 wild turkey hens the Commission's Wildlife Research Project personnel harnessed with radio transmitters in October for study purposes will be taken during the hunting season," says James A. Powell, Game Management Division chief, Tallahassee. "If so, we'd certainly like to have the units back, along with information as to the location of the kill."

Powell also points out that the tiny transmitters—weighing less than two ounces and about the size of a penny box of matches—would be useless to anyone but the researcher who installed them. If returned, each unit, unless badly damaged, can be placed back into service on another bird after fresh batteries are installed. (See FLORIDA WILDLIFE, June 1968.)

John S. Wise, Jr., 34, who received his M.S. in wildlife biology earlier this year from the University of Georgia at Athens, recently joined the Game Management Division as an assistant project leader on the Wildlife Research Project. He was assigned to the Ft. Lauderdale office and is currently engaged in a study of the reproduction of alligators in the Everglades.

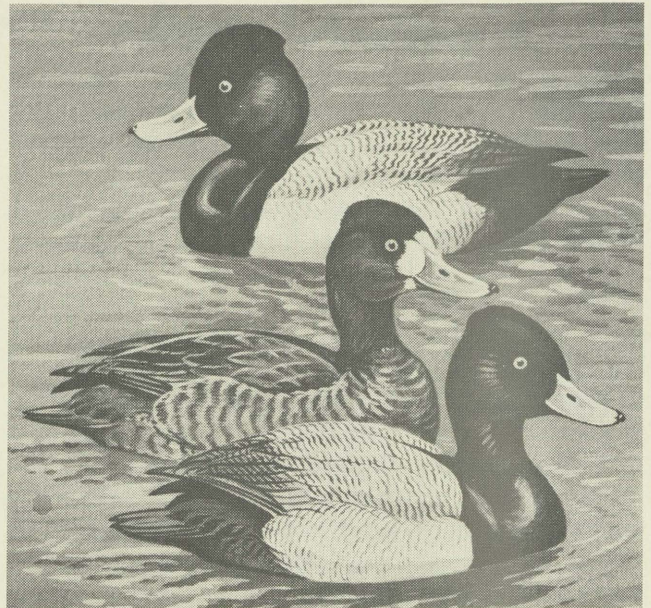
Wise completed undergraduate work both at the University of Virginia, where he earned a B.A. in 1960, and at the University of Georgia, where he received a B.S. in 1966.

He served in the airborne infantry as a member of the distinguished 10th Special Forces (Green Beret). Besides qualifying as a paratrooper, Wise completed Army ranger school, parachute maintenance and rigger school and cryptography (code) school.

John lists as his hobbies bird study, reptile collecting, camping, fishing, hunting, and golf.

He and his wife, Lee, have two children, a daughter, Hannah Lee, 2, and a son, John S. III, 1. They live at Ft. Lauderdale.

FLORIDA'S PRE-SEASON dove banding program exceeded its quota of 4,000 birds by 523. The totals, by month, were: June—3,211; July—1,013; August—299. Florida bands migratory mourning doves each year in cooperation with other southeastern states and the federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.



Meet the scaup, or bluebill. This species, always plentiful in Florida's open coastal waters and rivers, can be hunted in special areas after the regular waterfowl season closes.

THE SPECIAL SCAUP-ONLY waterfowl season that comes after the regular waterfowl hunting season closes in Florida should be welcomed by hunters around—or within driving distance of—the open areas. The post-season scaup hunt is intended to allow a harvest of an abundant species of duck while not jeopardizing those species known to be in short supply this year.

The delineated open areas were chosen simply because late season waterfowl population surveys show these are the areas in which the greatest unharvested flocks of scaup ducks congregate—in the open waters of the listed bays and coastal rivers of peninsular Florida.

As with regular migratory waterfowl season, federal regulations permitted Florida to schedule the special scaup-only post-season hunt and federal regulations specified the allowable daily and possession bag limits. But Florida further restricted the manner of hunting by requiring that shooting be done at least 200 yards off any main shore. This regulation is intended to insure that the various waterfowl species frequenting shorelines and shallows will not be shot along with scaup, which prefer broad, open waters. (The rule does not prohibit the use of small islands as blinds—as long as they are at least 200 yards from the mainland shore.)

By all means, Florida duck hunters should learn to identify all types of waterfowl before taking to the marsh. But most particularly, we must be able to distinguish the scaup, or bluebill, from the redhead, the ringneck and others before participating in the special scaup-only post-season hunt. An unexpectedly heavy harvest of any other species will surely spell the end of bonus special season scaup shooting in Florida. ●

Fishing Guides

FISHING

for those who plan to spend time—and money—on guided fishing trips, it will pay to seek advance information about current area conditions

By CHARLES WATERMAN



USED TO SOARING costs with everything else, the more prosperous fishing public is accepting some pretty high guiding charges.

With boat and motor furnished, outboard guides in Florida charge from \$30 to \$125 for a day's fishing. Probably the average is somewhere around \$40, but don't hold me to that because I don't want into a rate argument.

Some of the higher prices have come about through status competition on the part of the guides themselves with regard to their equipment. In areas where a great number of fishermen are "shopping" for guide service, the more attractive equipment certainly gets more attention. If you're strange to an area and see a whole row of guide boats lined up together it's natural to pick the biggest and best, I guess.

On one of my first fishing trips to the Keys I noted that the hottest guides were using the then new 25-horse motors in 15 or 16-foot boats, and that's still a pretty hard size to beat for bonefishing and other flat operations. When I was down there recently I noted that the most popular combination at one going resort was a 19 or 20-foot boat with a 100-horse or bigger motor.

Since a 100-horsepower outboard motor will get

you about four miles to the gallon in fishing use it's no wonder the rates are high. Big outboards seem to be taking the place of the open inboard "tarpon boat" that has held forth for so many years.

One guide I know has an open outboard boat with an investment of \$7,000 exclusive of his trailer—a lot more money than most of the tarpon boats used to cost. Of course most of the other big outboard guide boats in the Keys probably cost closer to \$3,000. I'm just guessing as no two of them are exactly alike.

A good guideboat for fresh water, motor and all, will cost less than \$2,000 and may be as little as \$1,000. These things have a great bearing on charges.

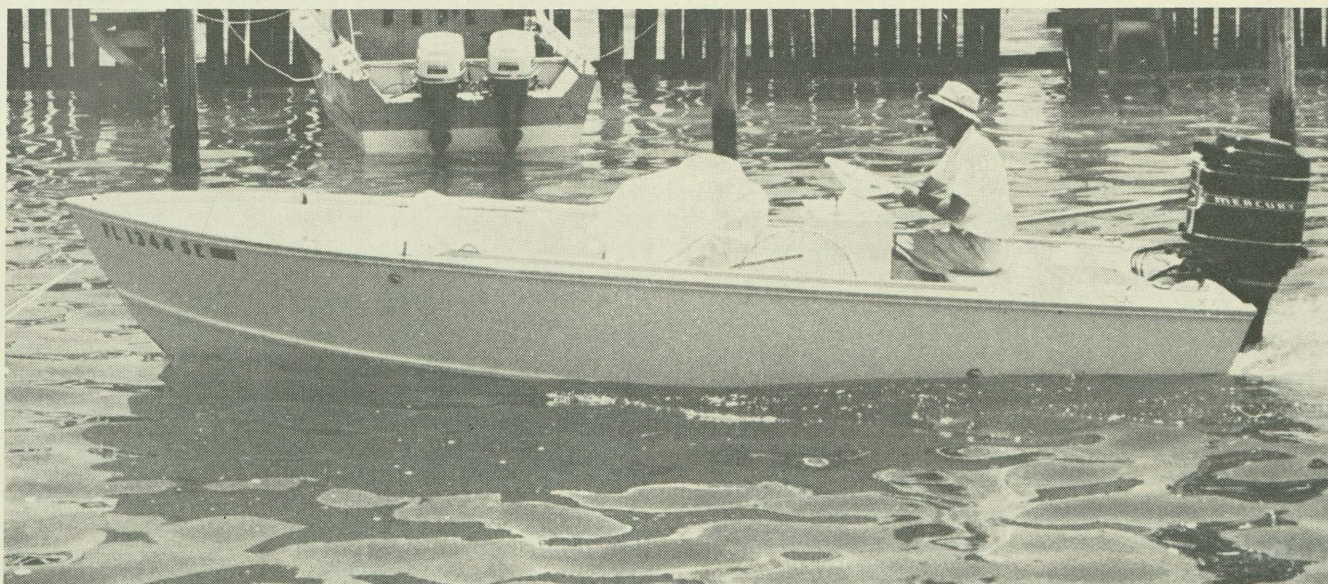
It's interesting to note that the most expensive and fastest outfit may actually be inferior for certain kinds of fishing.

For example if you'll take one of those burly 20-footers so popular in the Keys, and try poling it across a bonefish flat all day, you'll either develop a tremendous physique or a set of hernias. By paying extra you may actually be hiring a guide who can't produce as well as one with a lighter, more easily handled boat. But that's just for a specialized purpose. For general use the big boats are undoubtedly better.

Using an extra large boat built for soft riding and comfort, a salt water guide is likely to find

(Continued on next page)

A sort of super guide boat in the Keys. This big job is extremely comfortable and can handle almost any fishing chore. Until recently, these "skiffs" were much smaller.



(Continued from preceding page)

himself preferring still fishing to drifting or poling.

There are, of course, guides who have acquired so good a reputation they don't even need top-notch equipment to keep their books full. If I were guiding in a place like the Keys I'd tend toward the big boat myself, realizing that a large share of my clients would prefer comfort and still fishing to hard work anyway. The trend is toward fine boats and comfort.

When you look at a Keys price of \$65 a day for an outboard and guide, remember he may have a very short season. In midsummer and early fall most of those guideboats are sitting in sheds or hanging from cables.

I rather feel most fresh water guides are underpaid although I realize they don't have the equipment problems they'd meet in the salt.

For the casting fisherman in salt water the outboard has largely taken the place of the inboard cruiser and costs almost as much to charter. Generally it will give him more mobility and allow him to cover more kinds of fishing. Sometimes he pays a lot for it but he often gets a lot. I know one skipper who habitually takes an outboard for more than 100 miles on a day's fishing. Sometimes he goes twice that far. Sometimes he gets unbelievable tips from the wealthy clients he specializes in just in case the fishing happens to be good.

If you're going to spend money and time on a guided fishing trip, a little study of the subject and the guides available will pay off long before you arrive on the scene. I know that if I were going fishing in an unfamiliar part of Florida and going to hire a guide, I'd danged well make some telephone calls and write some letters to be sure I was going to get the kind of fishing I wanted.

I learned a lot about that a few years back when I made a hunt for stone sheep in British Columbia. This was a big deal for me and I thought of it as a once-in-a-lifetime proposition (it probably was). I did a lot of writing and phoning before I went up there. The hunt was highly successful although I felt a little silly at the time because of my finicky queries and penny counting.

But I found that dyed-in-the-wool sheep hunters, most of whom have plenty of cream in the pitcher or they wouldn't have adopted so expensive a sport in the first place, are more rather than less snoopy about guides than I am.

When I got back to Florida and began to get my breath back from what, to me, was a great adventure I began to get telephone calls from all over the country from prospective clients of the same outfitter asking my opinion of his services and seeking my recommendations. All of this made me feel very important but, most of all, I was impressed by the fact that a man who would plank down three thousand bucks for a hunt without batting an

eye would go to great detail in learning about the guy he was employing to take him hunting. Since then I have no reservations at all about asking questions on guiding.

MOST FISHING BOATS should carry some sort of fire extinguisher whether law requires it or not. I have been through this, all the way from tiny, unapproved devices to very expensive refillable units.

Lately there have been some medium-priced, non-refillable units that carry enough chemical to whip most small fires without difficulty. They hold roughly the same amount as the more expensive refillable devices.

There is a lot to be said for this type. The refillable ones require attention and checking from time to time and, because of their cost, you can be reluctant to throw them away after they have corroded or otherwise lost their efficiency.

I have a Bernzomatic non-refillable type in my boat at the moment. I have a couple of the other kind I'm just a little doubtful about. Like everyone else I've been neglectful about having them checked. Maybe the one-use gadget is best in my case.

UNKNOWNLY, an uninformed press makes the Everglades water situation more difficult. In the past 30 or 40 years generations of reporters have worked on brief assignments concerning dying fish, drowning deer and disappearing alligators. Few of them have had time or incentive to really study the situation and, understandably, their reports have been emotional rather than logical.

There is frequent drought in the area and there always will be. The flood control people cannot stop this. Damage to the "sea of grass" has been done through projects of many years ago. More recent water holding systems have helped although not completely successful.

Catching bass in an FCD canal in south Florida. With the curse of too much drainage and drought came the teeming FCD ditches. These type problems, however, are two-sided.



A plastic garbage-can makes an excellent place for coiling excess fly line in a boat. The can will have to be weighted down if wind's blowing.

The drought and flood history of South Florida has lasted through centuries. Fish kills with the intrusion of salt water in dry periods have been going on as long as man has visited the area.

Man has misdirected some of the water, displaced some of it with housing developments and farms, used vast quantities with his cities. Man's intrusion upon the marshes will continue and the Everglades will continue to shrink but there will be Everglades fishing and hunting for many years to come.

In the past few years I have written a lot of words about the Everglades problems. As I came to understand them more, my bleatings were more conservative; less inclined to indict individuals or organizations in Everglades troubles. As I write this it seems I've written it many times before and probably I have.

But my conclusion is this:

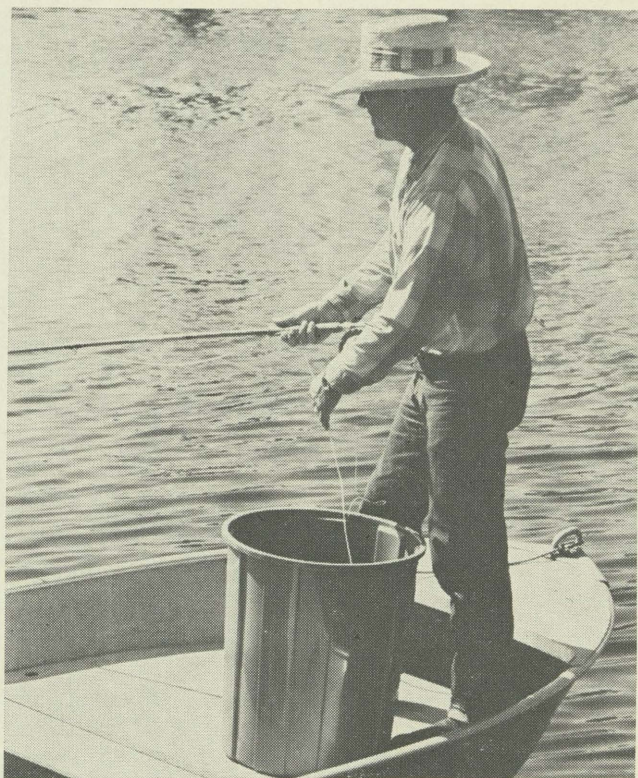
We have made big mistakes in handling South Florida water. We will continue to draw it off for human use and that will cause more salt water intrusion. We have resorted to too much drainage in the name of flood control but human lives have always been placed before alligators and bluegills.

But, nearly as I can tell, all of the concerned agencies are, at present, doing all they can to make the best of the situation. Fishermen and hunters should study the situation and start yelling only when they have some understanding of current situations.

THE HANDLING of surplus fly line in a boat or on a bank is a major problem of any fisherman who has learned to cast more than a very short distance.

In average "blind" castings the frequent "shoe cast" (a name coined by my friend, Milt Culp, and meaning an abortive attempt in which loose line flips around your feet and stops everything) and the occasional tangle can be accepted as part of the game but when you're looking for a fish at which you may have only one chance, such as visible schooling bass, bonefish or Keys tarpon, a foul-up of the shooting line can be serious.

In a brisk breeze I have had my shooting line foul other people's rods, oars, pushpoles, outboard motors, ears, tackle box latches and other objects too numerous to mention. To avoid this I have tried coiling my shooting line on a carefully prepared tarp and into a plastic dishpan. I have also tried what's known as a belt "line basket" and have held the surplus in my pocket, coiled in one hand, in my mouth and hooked over clothespins. The best was the dishpan except that a little wind would blow the line out. I've now started using a plastic garbage can, high enough to keep the line from



blowing. In the bottom is a small sandbag for weight and squashed over the entire base of the can so it won't catch line. Otherwise, wind will blow the can over.

I DON'T RECALL ever breaking a rod on a fish, but I have broken them almost every other way imaginable. The other day I made some kind of a record by wiping out a hundred bucks worth of rods with one push of my finger.

I'd been fishing a canal with some friends and they'd loaded their rods in my station wagon with the tips sticking out the tailgate window. The electric window is a very clever device and mine works very well. Fifty-dollar glass rods make a kind of crunching sound.

I HAVE JUST ordered a one-piece plugcasting rod with an offset handle that is permanently attached to the shaft.

In our tackle department we have a heap of casting rod handles you wouldn't believe. All of them are either broken or have destroyed the rod they came with.

It's at the butt ferrule plug rods give way. The ferrule loosens slightly, possibly through corrosion, the rod starts working in it and eventually either the rod or the ferrule breaks, generally as you make a cast. Sometimes the handle part breaks first.

You can get plenty of one-piece casting rods made up with the reel seat and handle an integral part but most of them don't have offset reel seats. The one I've ordered has a permanently attached handle with offset. We'll see. ●



for plain hunting enjoyment—and good
eats—seeking the smaller game
may provide successful fun afield

LATE LUNCH LUCK

By EDMUND McLAURIN

TO SOME SPORTSMEN, it doesn't really matter whether they bag big game, or even get to eat small game; just getting out and hunting is satisfying to them.

Of course, if they happen to realize good hunting, they're usually happier. Every hunter likes to look back on productive hunting trips.

If big game hunting luck should prove poor, you can still bag small game for tasty eating.

A reasonably sure, quick way to put game on the table or in food locker is to turn to rabbit, dove, squirrel or quail hunting, in that recommended order and probable abundance.

Undoubtedly, top-rated chance for obtaining meat for the table is to go rabbit hunting.

Widely distributed, the cottontail rabbit is hunted and taken in larger numbers than all other game animals combined. The rabbit may not always be preferred hunting choice, but the species is so abundant and prolific there seems to be no danger of hard hunting ever seriously depleting basic breeding stock.

Annual rabbit kill figures can only be speculated since Florida, like a dozen other states of heavy rabbit population, does not observe any closed season on the brown bunnies, nor are reportable kills required of hunters.

But Florida's annual rabbit harvest can be considered comparable within reasonable accuracy to those of other southern states, where the smooth-furred animals are also popular hunting targets and are taken by uncounted thousands.

Of states attempting kill counts, Missouri hunters are said to bag at least 3,300,000 cottontails annually. In Illinois, surveys indicate that more than five million rabbits are bagged by hunters most seasons. In all, total annual kill by hunters nationwide is estimated by biologists to be in the tens of millions! That's a lot of meat for the table—and mostly good eating.

Rabbits can be found almost anywhere there is wild habitat and suitable feed. In high and dry wooded areas you will find the true cottontail. In the southern swamps and marshes, the darker brown marsh rabbit will be found.

Don't neglect the possibilities of flushing rabbits in open fields. When they are hunted hard along fence rows, they do not hesitate to take refuge in the high grass of open fields by "holing in."

As you traverse a field, keep about fifty yards from fringe cover. Any flushed rabbit will likely head for the closest border cover, and there should be sufficient time for a shot before the fleeing bunny can reach the safety of adjacent woods or thickets.

Hunting with the help of a dog is probably the best way to rabbit hunt, and usually the most fun.

A trained, eager beagle is considered the perfect rabbit-hunting dog, but the four-footed assistant need not be blue-blooded to perform efficiently. Many a farmyard mongrel or family pet will prove itself, given a chance and little controlled supervision.

Generally, a small, short-legged, slow-hunting dog—like a beagle, basset hound or mixed breed of suggestive ancestry—will be better rabbit hunter than a larger, faster dog.

If your dog flushes a rabbit from a hollow log or hollow stump in country of fairly easy visibility, and the cottontail is so fast on getaway that you cannot get a shot, remain quiet and motionless close to the spot from which the rabbit started running. Quite often, a dog-chased rabbit will circle and come back to its starting point. You want to be alert to see the rabbit's approach and shoot before it can see you and change direction.

Hunting odds considered, the man who hunts with a dog will locate and flush more rabbits—and get more shots—than the man who hunts without such assistance.

Dawn to dusk rabbit hunting without a dog is not apt to be as productive as you would anticipate. Rabbits are moving about and feeding primarily of early morning and late afternoon. Without a dog, you can expect to bag most of your bunnies only at these times, even though you decide to hunt hard all day.

Most rabbit hunters prefer to use a shotgun, because of better chances of hitting, even with some error of aim.

Shotgun gauge can be anything from 12 ga. down to .410 gauge or 28 gauge, loaded with No. 5, 6 or 7½ shot—preferably the larger sizes, since they better penetrate brush and grass. Barrel choke boring should be on the tight side, for a desirable compact shot pattern at average rabbit hunting ranges.

A fast-firing autoloading or pump-action .22 rifle really comes into its own in rabbit hunting. In fact, anything slower of mechanical operation is not apt to be of much value except for deliberate shots from a scope-sighted rifle at rabbit-feeding times of very early morning and late afternoon.

A rabbit is not hard to kill; the problem is bringing furred target and released lethal shot load or bullet into physical contact.

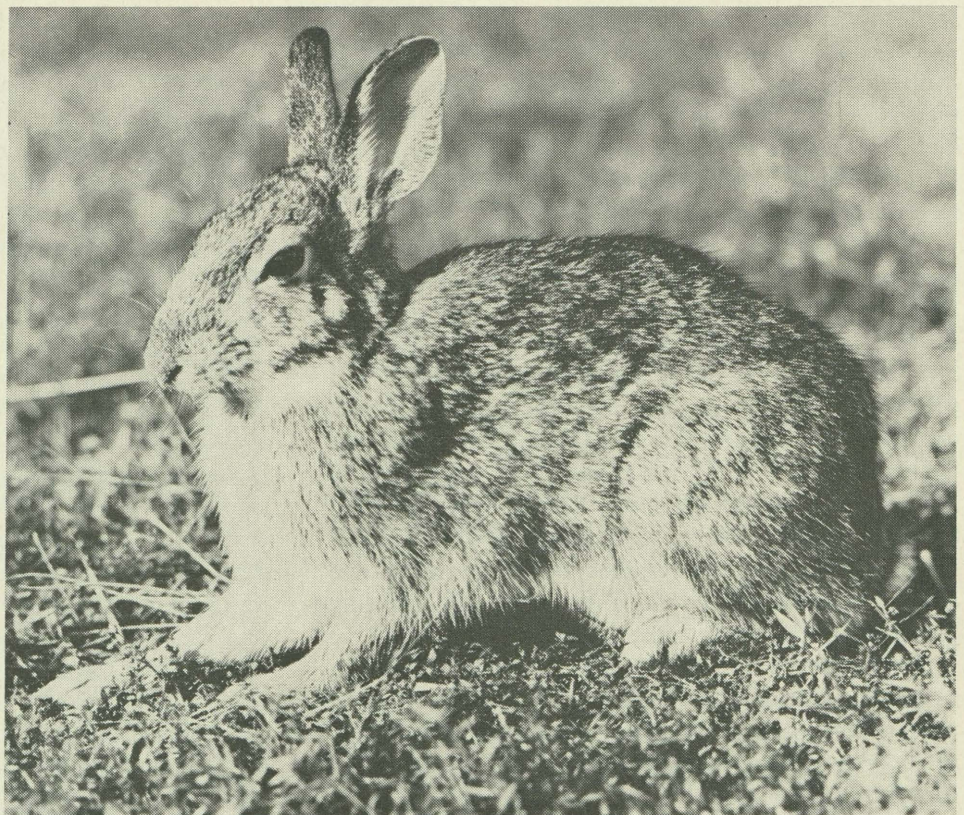
When using a shotgun on running rabbit—or any other fast-appearing and subsequently fast-disappearing target—a common gun handling error is to cheek the rapidly shouldered shotgun so carelessly that aiming eye takes too high position in relation to breech. In some instances, the shotgun is brought to shoulder, pointed and fired without face and aiming eye receiving any gunstock comb support at all. This is entirely wrong and conducive to missing.

Correctly, when gunstock hits shoulder and comb contacts face, the shooter's aiming eye should be looking directly across center of breech and about ⅜ of an inch above it, so that shotgun barrel it-

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Photo By Lovett Williams

A quick way to put game on the table is to go rabbit hunting. A beagle, at left, makes an ideal helper—you will find and flush more with an eager dog.



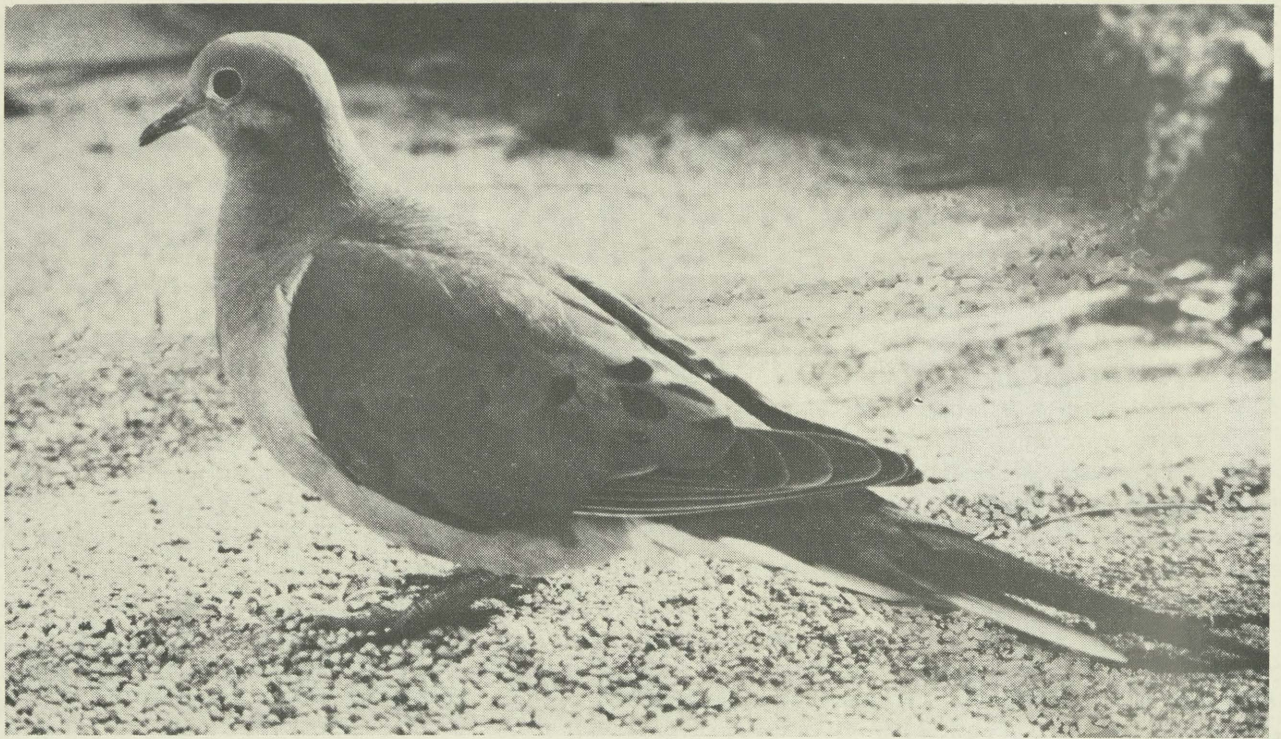


Photo By Wallace Hughes

When colder weather moves the migratory doves south, hunting action will often be faster—more successful.

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self appears fore-shortened. Target should be seen, full size and clearly defined above the image of fore-shortened shotgun barrel and front sight. (This rule of correct aim applies to all forms of field shotgunning, except on some incoming targets of winged type.)

If a rabbit is close to gun when flushed, let him run out from you a bit before firing. Shots attempted under ten yards call for mighty fast gun handling and accurate gun pointing.

A skilled snap-shooter usually excels on fast-running targets, especially those that appear momentarily in full view, disappear and again emerge into an open area. Time and again an accurately applied snap-shooting technique will tumble a bunny as it darts across an open spot.

There is no need to tell a fast, experienced snap-shooter how to intercept a moving target with a released shotshell charge, but a bit of advice can be given to a slower, more deliberate shotgunner. See the fleeing rabbit's bouncing powder-puff tail just over your shotgun sight as you fire and chances are good you will bag that particular rabbit.

If you use a rifle, and find that you have a tendency to overshoot when aiming quickly with metallic sights, change to a scope sight. The full view straight-through optical center natural eye alignment will usually put aiming eye and sighting plane into common agreement.

No matter how heavy the hunting pressure, there are always plenty of rabbits to hunt. To eat wild rabbit meat is merely a matter of going after it—unless, of course, some other hunter has the fun of providing it for you.

Probably the second quickest way to put legal game meat on table is to go dove hunting. There are uncounted thousands of resident Florida doves. In October, November and December, these are augmented with heavy migrations of flocks from more northern states, when winter's icy fingers begin to close around those states.

Doves are strong, swift flyers. During migration weeks it is not unusual for a flock to cover several hundred miles in a day's time—including short stops at whatever constitutes dove equivalent of "refreshment stands."

You don't have to arise early, eat a hastily prepared breakfast and dash off in early dawn. Legally, Florida dove hunting opens at high noon. This gives hard-hunted flocks a chance to feed and rest in the morning, and hunters plenty of time to get to good dove hunting locations.

Thanks to the Game Commission's planning, foresight and cooperative contacts with landowners, you are assured of places to hunt, despite heavy competition and owner-posting of much once-open acreage. Commission supervised public dove hunting fields, thickly sown with maturing, dove-attracting grains, have been established throughout the state; one or more will surely be within easy commuting distance of your starting out point.

In addition, many farmers and dairymen still grant land access hunting privileges to sportsmen who will respect property, livestock and imposed hunting boundary limits.

During the first two or three days of an open dove hunting period, birds are not apt to be too cautious or resort to full speeds and split-second flight swerves and dodges. But after being harassed by numerous guns they can travel faster than a national sweepstakes winner heading for a prize-won date with Racquel Welch.

Doves are sharp-eyed. It is always a good idea to wear a complete camouflage outfit or at least camouflage cap and drab-color clothing, and to take advantage of fence row and open field grass and brush concealment whenever possible. Most successful hunters crouch down, low to ground, alongside a fence post, tree or clump of field grass, and stand erect only when single dove or flock is in sure gun range.

Shotgun gauges, choke borings and shotshell loads that give you the maximum number of killing pellets out at target are most logical choices. To reach and down distant, passing birds, you should use a shotgun of 12 or 16 gauge and high base shotshells loaded with size No. 7½ shot or even as large as size No. 6 shot.

On days when birds appear to fly less cautiously and more leisurely, regular velocity shotshells and No. 7½ shot will prove reliable, and should be used in preference to those of high velocity. It is a good idea to have both shotshell types with you, so that you can load your shotgun according to field need.

Federal and Florida law requires that the magazines of repeating shotguns be plugged, so that no more than three shells can be put into the gun at one time.

Photo By Gene Smith



Since you want a dense shot pattern, no choke boring more open than modified barrel boring should be used, where there is choice.

A fast-firing pump or autoloader is to be preferred, because there will be many times when successive shots will be needed—especially so when the first attempted shot is a miss.

As the hunting season advances and the surviving birds get smarter, there will be a lot of shot missing.

Most birds are missed by shooting behind the fast flying targets. Either not enough lead is allowed, or else you are slowing or stopping gun swing instead of making full follow through on firing. Very few birds are missed by shooting too far ahead of them.

Physically, the dove is not a hard game bird to kill. Connect even one or two No. 7½ shot with a dove and he will probably drop. But, such is the stamina of some birds that they will sometimes fly an additional hundred yards or further before tumbling to ground. If you shoot and unaccountably miss what seemed like a sure shot, watch the departing bird's action as long as it is in sight. A wounded, lost and unbagged bird is no good to anyone. Closely watched and retrieved, he will be as good eating as any other in game bag.

If there are other hunters in the vicinity of your chosen hunt area, don't begrudge the competition. Their presence near feeding and watering areas will tend to keep birds on the move. Actually, a lone hunter hasn't much chance of within range shots at doves feeding in a large, open field lacking other hunters—unless he does some careful stalking, or uses slingshot and glass marble ammunition to startle birds into circling flight.

When there are no rival guns around and a lone bird flies in and alights in your field or in a tree, don't flush and shoot at him, but take cover and wait. Time and again a lone bird that comes into a field or perches on tree limb or boundary fence will be a scout, looking things over for less bold birds. (To realize this as fact, all you have to do is study the habits of doves—with or without gun.)

Undoubtedly, easily seen, lifelike decoy figures set on fence wires or in leafless trees, close to feeding and watering spots, will help attract doves. Some of the commercial decoys are so lifelike that it is easy to get momentarily confused if a real dove should alight unnoticed among a known number of decoys. It has happened!

Whether or not dove callers are effective is a matter of opinion. Likely, they will serve you best when you are hunting without competition, and

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There is a variety of ways that bagged squirrels can be prepared as tasty meals. The sport season lasts longer.

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while undisturbed birds perched in trees can hear and respond to seductive, imitated dove talk.

The lone hunter will also bag doves if he will station himself along an established flight path to a watering spot, or places himself so as to intercept birds that travel daily routes to roosting area.

Once flights start, it is amazing how many birds will follow the same route to watering, feeding or roosting spot.

But just as wise, old buck deer do not use the same beds too often, so too, will doves change their roosting places if disturbed on successive days. Close observation will bring knowledge of flight change habits.

Whatever hunting technique you elect to use, there are plenty of doves to be shot.

Squirrel hunting offers a third quick, legal way to eat wild game if you haven't had any big game hunting luck.

But if it is already late of season when you first go squirrel hunting, you'll have to play it smart if you would surely bag a mess of squirrels. You will have to use your best squirrel hunting tricks, for the bushytails will be using theirs.

Quite probably there will still be squirrels in already hunted areas, but most will be smart—feeding and sunning close to nests or dens, ever alert and ready to scamper to safety at the slightest hint of danger.

The quarry you are seeking is the common gray squirrel, the same bushytail species you see searching for food and sometimes begging for handouts in city parks and in the yards of Florida homes. In the wild, the species is so abundant that there is little danger of over-hunting.

Food seems to be the control factor. In years of high acorn crops, the squirrel population usually soars. Besides acorns, the gray squirrel likes hickory nuts, pecans, corn, seeds, various berries and grains—and even some insects. They love moss-festooned swamps and forests in which hardwoods abound. There they find both needed food and homes. Seek them in such habitat.

Another legal Florida squirrel target is the big, colorful fox squirrel of the pine forests. When out hunting you are not as apt to see them in anywhere near the numbers you can expect to find gray squirrels, but when you do encounter one the shooting is just as sporting.

Put on camouflage clothing, and leave your shotgun at home in favor of a scope-sighted .22 rifle. The shotgun will prove more deadly in average hands, but a .22 will not make much noise and the squirrel hunter can make a shot and likely get another after motionless, silent vigil in the same feeding area.

By late in the hunting season, the squirrel will probably be hiding out "upstairs"—the hunter must have patience.

Crouch down beside tree or bush and use binoculars to scan tree crotches and big limbs. Often a squirrel will flatten itself down against a big limb and only periodically raise head for a look around. Those in tree crotches usually look at any suspicious intruder through the crotch of main limbs, usually from opposite side of tree trunk and generally with only head showing.

If you come into an area and a squirrel runs for a tree and you do not get a shot, closely watch the first and second tree crotches. Often a squirrel will pause at one of those tree locations to evaluate the necessity for further escape.

Here is where the .22 scope-sighted rifle pays off. You can make an accurate head shot, even if your observation point is as much as 50 yards away.

Of course, the rifle must be accurately sighted-in. For best field application, sight-in so that .22 long rifle high speed bullets hit "on the nose" at 50 yards. So sighted, a bullet—trajectory-wise—will be only $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch low at 25 and 35 yards (as it has not yet reached full trajectory height); at point of aim at 50 yards, and only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches low at 75 yards.

Very few shots will be made at 75 yards; for those long ones, you can hold "a trifle high," to compensate for bullet drop.

When you are hunting in a known feeding area, and make one or more kills, don't retrieve them, but wait quietly and motionless in your place of concealment for other possible shots. In a feeding area you will usually get more shots that way. When you are ready to leave, you can retrieve your kills.

For the careful, patient and persistent hunter, squirrel hunting pays off. It results in good eating, too; squirrels can be prepared for the table in several tasty ways. ●

Photo By Lovett Williams



The Raccoon

By GENE SMITH

FOR THE MONEY, the raccoon offers as much sport and entertainment for the outdoorsman as any of Florida's small fur-bearing animals. They are positively charming animals to observe, being clever, industrious, clean and fun-loving. Around a camp, however, they are also quite mischievous—too inquisitive, too noisy and far too prone to larceny to endear themselves to everyone. For example, an unguarded or carelessly laid pack or grocery box is almost certain to be rifled by one or more of these cheeky bandits. Buckets, pans and cans are quite likely to be overturned in the middle of the night, which is hardly conducive to a good night's sleep.

But for all his antics, the raccoon enjoys a place of honor among the nation's outdoorsmen, who admire him for his general intelligence, his adaptability to a changing environment, his sporting qualities and simply because of his familiarity to young and old alike. He is an integral part of the American outdoor scene, a symbol of the vanishing wilderness.

In Southern woods and river swamps the 'coon is especially valued as an animal to be hunted with hounds, a time honored sport indeed. Many an evening in rural Florida finds 'coon hunters and their dogs sloshing through creeks and pond edges and running the scrub oak ridges on the trail of some wily old rascal which may have been run and treed a dozen times before.

The music of the chase quickens the pulses of young and old devotees of the sport, the ultimate goal usually being to reach the tree and shake out Mr. 'Coon for the benefit of a fight to further a young hound's education. Sometimes the quarry is taken with a well placed .22 short slug if he's too high to be dislodged otherwise. Many animals are merely left in the tree to be chased another night.

His is one of the most familiar faces in all the wild kingdom but Br'er 'Coon is quite reluctant to show it once he has taken to the tall timbers. Hunters with flashlights have a tough time locating one if he won't look down so his eye shine can be seen. One trick for getting him to do this is to use a "coon squaller," a game call which, in the hands of a strong-lunged caller, can almost make a 'coon peer down to see what all the commotion is about. The squaller imitates a fight between a dog and a raccoon and can produce a truly blood curdling variety of guttural canine snarls and growls. Sometimes a frenzied performance on the squaller will make a treed 'coon decide to jump out and make a run for it while the "fight" is in progress. This, of course, is all the hunter could hope for because it saves a strenuous climb.

Another simple trick to make a 'coon show his eyes is to blow a piercing whistle, like a police



Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

whistle. His natural curiosity will usually make him look down.

If weights were equal almost any 'coon could lick almost any hound. But an experienced dog can subdue his adversary without a whole lot of trouble if the scrap takes place on dry land. A water fight, however, gives the 'coon a valuable advantage. Only the grittiest dogs will press the fight under these conditions, and they are apt to come out of the fracas with a shredded ear or two to show for their experience.

Raccoons are our only mammals with a black mask and a ringed tail. In Florida they are found around every pond, creek, river, canal and salt marsh. They are nocturnal animals, denning in hollow trees, where they sleep all day. Sometimes if tree hollows are unavailable they take to rocky dens or caves. Their unmistakable tracks are usually abundant in any ditch or along the sand bars and mud flats of the state, where they've wandered in search of food—mussels, crawfish, fish, bugs, birds, eggs, wild berries, garbage—anything.

Young raccoons tame easily but should be left in the wild, like all other wildlife. They can inflict painful bites in young playmates and are not uncommon carriers of disease, rabies most notably. Never approach a wild animal of any kind that acts unafraid or appears slow of foot or sickly! To do so is asking for trouble.

Old Ringtail has a long and honorable history, all right. He shared his wilderness with the red man; he was undoubtedly watching when the first white man's campfire was lit on these shores; he helped feed and clothe the early settlers and explorers; he has moved over to make room for sprawling cities; he is surviving a nightly sacrifice of his kind on the endless concrete altars built across the land, even through his beloved swamps and marshes; and from the rushes of Merritt Island he witnesses every rocket launching at Cape Kennedy, having somehow held on to a ringside seat to the Space Age. ●



VENISON . . .

. . . handle with care

By GENE SMITH

YOU'VE GONE RIGHT by the book. You've planned your hunting season like a military strategist, equipping yourself with good quality gear, including a vehicle, a new firearm and assorted camping needs. You've visited likely hunting areas to check for sign and settled on the place to hold your opening day hunt.

You've bought your license, reviewed the current hunting regulations—and even zeroed your new gun. You're satisfied because, in addition to having fed and cared for those hounds all year, you've done almost all an ordinary man can do in preparation for deer season.

Opening day comes at last and you and the party are in the woods in plenty of time, restlessly awaiting the dawn, eager to put out on that big track you've been watching. The moment arrives and you swing wide the dog box door.

A scant 55 minutes into the season your buck bounds into a clearing slightly off to your left, stops, and in a classic whitetail pose, turns his head to check his backtrack. He hasn't seen or winded you. What luck! The pounding excitement of these next

crucial seconds are devastating but, nerves and all, you somehow manage to anchor him where he stood with a clean shot placed just ahead of the near shoulder. Boy, what a morning!

Yep, it has been a storybook hunt so far. Everything has gone perfectly. So far. But will the story have a happy ending? Will your vension be fit to eat? The answer depends largely on what you do next—and how carefully—and *how soon*. The quality of your deer will precisely reflect the care it receives—or doesn't receive—from this point. It may be fit for a king, or, on the other hand, it may be unfit for your dogs.

What follows is offered in hopes it'll answer some questions or stir some memories about what needs to be done *after the shot*, where woodsmanship takes over from marksmanship.

Before we get right down to the point, let's back up a bit. The first point that should be made is to go hunting *prepared*. If you hunt deer, think positive. Expect to kill one. If you do this, then next to your gun and ammunition the most important piece of equipment in your immediate possession

should be a good, sharp hunting knife. You might be surprised at the half-hearted hunters who don't carry this essential item of the true outdoorsman's gear.

Also carry a few feet of cord or twine. It won't even be noticed in a jacket pocket and will have many uses in the field. But it will prove most useful when you get to the business of field dressing a deer.

In addition, have available—back at camp or in your vehicle—a small hand ax or meat saw, a length of good rope and a few clean cloths, or a roll of paper towels, for wiping out the body cavity. If the carcass is to be hung for cooling and skinning while still in camp it must be protected from flies. This will require enough cheesecloth to completely cover the exposed parts. This arrangement will allow free air circulation, which is necessary to proper cooling. Many deer hunters also rub the body cavity with generous amounts of black pepper in order to keep away insects, a good idea even if the deer is draped with cheesecloth.

Now, immediately after the shot what?

Step one of proper field care is: *Make sure he's dead.* Not many hunters are hurt by "dead" deer which rise and run, but it is always a possibility. Even disregarding the danger factor entirely, who wants to see his trophy get up and leave the scene after the gun has been stashed and the blade exposed in preparation for the next step? Look for

Only freshly killed animals will bleed freely at the throat. If your deer was blood-trailed, then proceed with field dressing as soon as it has been located.

Photo By Gene Smith



glazed eyes. A smoky appearance means he's dead. (A dead deer's eyes remain wide open, by the way.) If there is any doubt, kick him on the shin—from a safe angle, gun at the ready. If there is life, carefully place a shot through the animal's rib cage. This should do it—with minimum destruction of edible meat.

Step two: *Bleed the carcass, if necessary.* Many experienced deerslayers *always* stick a deer or cut its throat in order to be certain the carcass is completely bled, this being an acknowledged factor in the preservation of the delicate flavor of good venison. But the fact is, in most instances the traditional knifing draws very little blood. The reason? The bleeding was accomplished by gunshot or arrow wound, the blood being lost either externally or internally, or both. If the deer has been dead very long when you find him, and particularly if the evidence points to internal bleeding, get on with the field dressing as quickly as possible. To delay is to assure yourself of low grade venison. To "bleed" such a kill would produce no more than a trickle from the circulatory system.

However, if your deer was killed with a head, neck or spine shot, which normally will result in very little bleeding, and if you get to him immediately after the shot, he should be bled at once by sticking or throat cutting.

If you prefer sticking—and it's neater and especially desirable if you plan to have the head mounted, or even photographed—insert the blade low and dead center at the base of the neck—just at the point made by the collarbone. There's a little hollow there and a nice artery lies close to the surface beneath it—within easy reach of even a pocket-knife blade. The artery should be severed completely for the best bleeding job. Elevate the animal's hind quarters to get the best flow, being sure to keep the sticking hole clear of clots.

There's never any need to inflict a ghastly looking ear-to-ear slash such as we all have seen in the throat cutting method of bleeding a carcass. The idea is simply to sever the great artery that supplies blood to the brain, not to mutilate the animal.

Step three is optional: *Remove and dispose of the musk, or scent, glands on the hind legs.* Most of the Florida deer hunters I know reject the idea that these glands taint deer meat. They simply leave them on the carcass and proceed with gutting the deer. There are those, however, who learned to do it the other way. It's easy to slice away the glands and be done with it if you so desire. The larger pair are the ones usually removed. They are called the tarsal glands and are located on the inside surface of each hind leg at the hock, alongside the great tendon, or hamstring. A tuft of long hair covers each. Two smaller glands, called the metatarsal glands, are located lower down and on the

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outside surface of the hind legs, slightly toward the rear. All are imbedded in the skin.

If you choose to remove these glands from your deer, begin the slice well above each and cut away a generous island of hide with each. Dispose of these in the brush and clean your blade and your hands of any musk before resuming your task. If water is available, fine; if not, administer a good wiping at least. Try not to touch the gland itself with hands or steel in the first place.

With step four we begin the main business at hand: *eviscerating our kill*, that is, removing from the body, in an orderly fashion, everything inside. Care and reasonably skillful use of a sharp knife here really pays dividends when the venison is served. The procedure is really quite simple.

With the animal on its back, head still downhill, make the initial incision—beginning just in front of the genitals. Keep the pressure light. The object is to pierce only the abdominal wall and hide. Don't stab him, then; slit him. Once entry is gained, carefully open the abdomen from point of entry up to the breastbone. This will expose most of the innards to view. (It is easier for some to open only the hide on the first trip, after which they open the abdomen itself.)

There is only one secret to performing this part of the field dressing operation: Don't puncture anything. Guide the blade slowly along, *cutting edge up*, with the spread fingers pressing downward keeping the bowel and paunch out of the way. By all means try to avoid accidentally cutting or puncturing these and spilling their fouling contents onto the flesh.

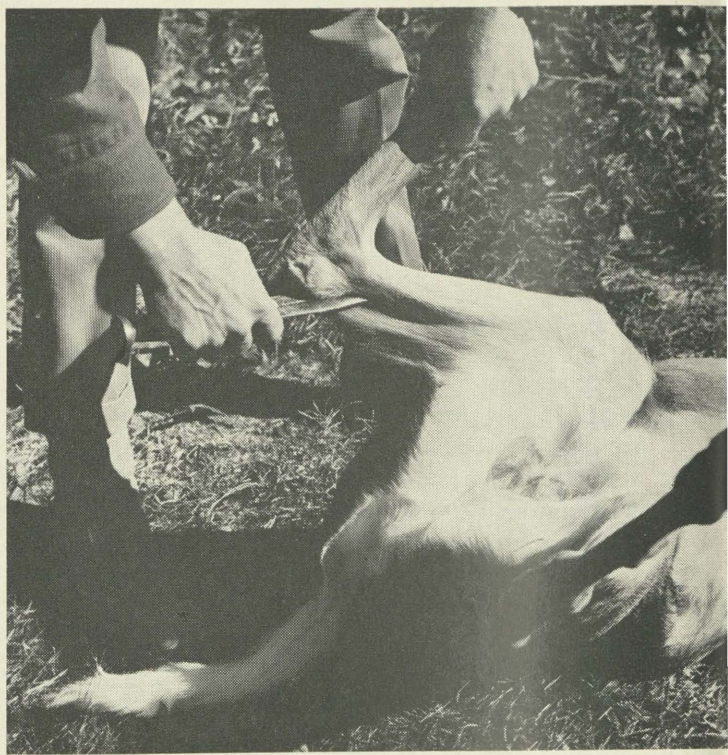
Next, free the colon and urinary tract from all supporting tissue and tie off both with pieces of the cord you've brought along. To do so requires cutting to the pelvic arch with the knife and, if a heavy blade or saw is available, cutting through these bones.

If neither ax nor saw is handy the task is a little more difficult, but not impossible. Cut *parallel* to the colon from inside and outside until it is free and can be drawn through the pelvic arch toward the open abdomen and tied, along with the bladder.

Once this is accomplished, swing the carcass around so that the head is uphill. In this position the paunch and intestines will sag downward and outward, giving you more room to work on the chest area.

Now the sternum, or breastbone—which is really cartilage—can be split. Do this with a firm, two-handed knife cut. This will open the rib cage enough to expose the rest of the internal organs. Next, trim away the diaphragm, the thin membrane that divides the body cavity into two rooms. It should be cut close to the ribs all the way around.

Now reach as far up into the chest cavity as pos-



Photos By Gene Smith

Hunters debate the merits of removing the scent glands from a deer's legs. Some in Florida do; a lot do not. Except in the rutting season they are probably not a factor in tainting meat.

sible and sever the gullet and windpipe. You are now ready to begin stripping out the entire contents of the animal's body—from stem to stern—literally. Snip and slice supporting tissues as you go, the only major points still anchored being the heart and lungs. Once these are cut loose from their moorings the entire business can be rolled right out in a heap.

The carcass should then be lifted from one side and emptied of all blood puddled therein and the cavity should be wiped as clean and dry as possible—with paper towels or clean rags, if available, or with dry grass, Spanish moss or some other such material if nothing else is handy.

If any contents of the digestive tract were spilled inside the body cavity—from accidental puncture or from gunshot or arrow wounds, as in a gut shot—it is *extremely* important to find water as quickly as possible to flush away all traces of the waste material, wiping the cavity dry again afterward. Unless there has been such spillage, however, washing the inside of the deer with water is not necessary in the field. Some say it is even harmful; that a glaze of dried blood helps seal the flesh against spoilage.

Finally, with a sharp stick—maybe two—prop open the carcass to allow free air circulation. This is particularly desirable if the deer is to be left unattended for any length of time, as when you have to go for help in packing it out. The good ventilation promotes rapid cooling, thereby retarding bacterial action and the onset of spoilage.

This entire procedure should have required no more than about 20 minutes at the outside. It can be done expertly in much less time.

The next item of business, if it wasn't handled before now, is to salvage the liver—and the heart, if you like—from the offal pile. These are delicious and should not be wasted. Place them on a clean surface to drain and cool, after which they can be wrapped or placed in a plastic bag (another handy item for the outdoorsman to carry) for transporting home or to camp.

As for packing your deer from a wilderness area back to camp, road or vehicle, it's nice to have help. But it is usually no real problem for an able-bodied man to drape a field dressed Florida whitetail across his shoulders and walk with him. If the buck simply weighs out too heavy to lug around—as we all hope for—he can at least be sledged along for short distances—then sledged some more.

The two-man pole carry is nice if there is a long way to go. To reduce bothersome sway during the hike, lash the entire carcass, including the head, close to the pole.

The *average* Florida whitetail buck weighs 157 pounds alive and 113 field dressed, based on actual weights taken in Commission studies. Whitetails in some northeastern states may dress out nearly 100 pounds more than a Florida deer, but we have some large specimens, too. The biggest we've heard about was a 306-pounder (live weight) taken in Jackson County in 1966 by Raymond Jordan, Malone, Florida. It was a 14-pointer, said the report.

Incidentally, for the information of hunters—and to give check station lawyers something to talk about—our *average* deer, and, presumably any buck

deer, is 72% flesh, hide, head, bone, antler and hoof and 28% internal organs and blood. By our own breadwrapper computations, based on published figures for about 2,000 Florida bucks, the 28% figure can further be broken down into roughly 18% stomach and intestines and their contents and 10% heart, lungs and liver. Distributed in there somewhere must be about eight to ten pints of blood weighing approximately a pound per pint.

While the foregoing is not necessarily earth-shaking news to most hunters, here is a tidbit along those same lines that can be quite useful: To compute live weight from dead weight, or field dressed weight, multiply dead weight by 1.39. "Dead weight" in this computation means a deer with a completely empty carcass—heart, lungs, liver, stomach and intestines removed. Hence, a buck that weighs in at 100 pounds minus his innards was carrying 139 pounds on the hoof; a dead weight of 140 pounds means the deer was a 195-pounder in the woods; a field dressed deer of 60 pounds was an 83-pounder while alive, etc.

The factor of 1.39 comes from reliable Commission studies, too. It's a good figure to remember. But back to that storybook deer we field dressed. . . . It should go without saying, Florida winters being as mild as they are, that meat spoilage can set in in a hurry in any freshly killed animal—domestic or wild. After the field dressing is completed, your deer should be transported, skinned and promptly placed in the hands of a cooler attendant or professional butcher. For the best eating it should have professional handling from here on. Not many hunters are properly equipped or trained for aging, cutting and wrapping meat for storage.

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This hunter is opening the hide from the pelvic region to the breastbone in preparation for the next step, opening belly wall to expose the paunch and intestines. Deer's legs are held conveniently open by the hunter's leg, although some prefer to tie one of the deer's legs to a sapling.



Dressed Weight to Live Weight (Buck Deer in Florida)

Field Dressed Weight* (Pounds)	Live Weight (Pounds)
50	70
60	83
70	97
80	111
90	125
100	139
110	153
120	167
130	181
140	195
150	209
160	222
170	236
180	250
190	264
200	278

*Computed by multiplying weight of empty carcass by a factor of 1.39

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Whatever headshrinkers prefer to call it—ego, pride, a show of virility—there is something that lurks in the hunter's breast that makes him want to show off his kill, the product of his prowess, the meat he has brought back to the cave for the tribe. In the modern hunter, who presumably goes hunting for the sport first, for meat second, this old urge takes a pretty typical form. He straps the critter on the front of an automobile—right next to a red hot internal combustion engine—and hauls it about in the sun most of the day—from hunt camp to hunt camp, over to the city hall, down by the fire station, a couple of service stations, the barbershop and then to the post office and court house and, finally, slowly down the street where he lives. And all the time he knows his deer may get rancid—but still he plans to eat it!

Such a parade nullifies the very best and quickest field dressing technique, including all the care about un-punctured guts! A re-heated deer carcass is apt to be more buzzard bait than the table grade venison it should—and could—have been.

Deer meat for human consumption should be handled just like beef or any other domestic animal with regard to care and preservation. Can you imagine carting a prize steer around all day draped across your pick-up hood or lashed to the fender within inches of the engine exhaust manifold? Hardly!

Place your deer on top of the vehicle or in the truck bed—even in the trunk of a sedan—in preference to the traditional up front next-to-the-motor-treatment. Leave the trunk lid cracked for ventilation if that's where you carry it.

Ever been offered a mess of venison that'd prac-

tically take your hat off before being placed on the fire? Even worse, have you ever been served a slab that is too strong and tough to be fit for use, not to mention the pungent odor and gamy flavor, and been told by your well meaning host that's the way all venison is supposed to taste? Don't you believe it. Chances are that deer was "pore" and stringy to start with, was gut shot and tainted with body waste and then mauled and manhandled from field to freezer. It was undoubtedly rancid when it got to town!

Skinning a deer is no great problem. The primary precaution is to avoid getting hair all over the meat. A few loose hairs will always manage to stick to the flesh but they can be picked off.

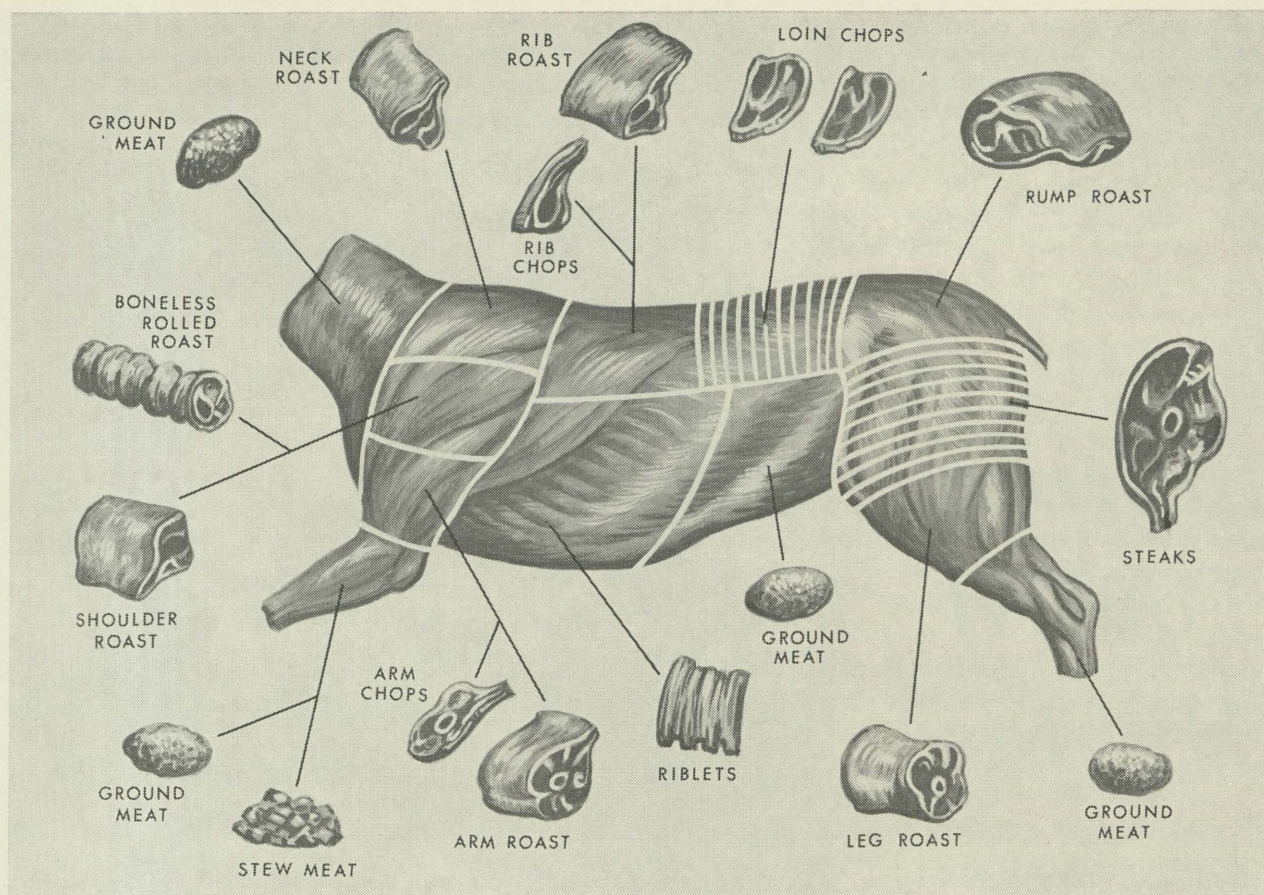
Other than for the initial cuts along the top surfaces of the hind legs (as the deer hangs), the knife is used very little in the skinning process. Rather, the fist is employed in conjunction with a good steady downward pressure on the loosening hide. "Fisting" is the name given to the method. It consists of forcefully wedging the fist between the hide and the flesh in a series of rolling motions. Using this procedure one can remove cleanly all the hide down to the forelegs.

At this point some special handling is required

With cutting edge up, and spread fingers guiding and pressing back entrails, the delicate work is quickly finished. Afterward, turn hind quarters downhill and gravity will assist with removal of inside. When everything is out, wipe cavity clean.

Photo By Gene Smith





Artwork Illustrations By Wallace Hughes

Venison—Some Suggested Meat Cuts

if you want to preserve, in first class condition, the cape—the area of the neck, shoulders and brisket—for a full shoulder mount. The cape should be skinned out intact after a cut along the back of the neck from the withers, or shoulder hump, to the base of the skull, and another cut at right angles to the first from the withers all the way around the animal's body just in front of the forelegs. The head can be twisted off quite easily after the cape is free.

All that remains to be done is to get your deer to the cooler and the head and cape to the taxidermist without delay. You may want a quarter of venison for eating fresh but the rest will need to be professionally cooled and aged at controlled temperatures and humidity. The aging period may vary from one to three weeks, depending on whose advice you take. After this, have your deer cut and wrapped exactly as you would beef.

You'll have venison steaks, roasts, chops, shanks and stew meat. There'll also be trimmings for grinding into deerburgers. A 150-pound buck will yield about 20 sirloin steaks and as many or more T-bones, depending on the thickness you order them cut.

Well, regardless of how prepared we are or how much positive thinking we do, not all of us will get to dress a deer this season. But if things hold true to form, somewhere in the neighborhood of 35,000

deer will be taken in Florida—by close to 100,000 hunters—an excellent hunter success rate in anybody's book.

Last year the Dixie County Advocate, a weekly newspaper, carried an item, with photo, about a local deer hunter who finally scored after 30 years of trying. He reported having driven around 287,000 miles and having spent close to \$9,000.00 during his career as a deer hunter. At these figures he said his 120-pound buck was worth \$75.00 per pound!

But then there's the other side of the coin. A 15-year old boy from Lake Mary, Florida, bagged a whopping 15-point buck on his very first hunting license, a feat which got him a two-column photo in the Orlando Sentinel last November.

And every season there are a few of another kind, too, the deer hunter who was born with a silver cartridge in his mouth. Last year there was a Polk Countian whose smiling face beamed from a page of the Lakeland Ledger between two fine bucks taken on the same hunt! Both were beauties, one weighing 135 pounds and the other nearly 200.

All this just goes to show that you never can tell about deer hunting. So, be prepared. And if you do get your deer, remember to *clean him out, cool him down and get him home.*

That is, if you want *taste* instead of *waste*. ●

A variable choke device is fine in dove field. This shooter, Buddy Nordmann, of DeLand, often takes two guns with him to be prepared for both short or long shots, but he always takes along Labrador, Jet.

Florida Tourist Hunter

there is a variety of fine
hunting in Florida for the
visitor if he makes contacts
and studies the country



I WOULDN'T SAY Florida is advertising its hunting very strongly, and I'll go so far as to say that natives sometimes change the subject when a visitor brings it up.

There is plenty of game which is, nevertheless, hard to come by without considerable experience or help. The attitude of the old timers may be understandable since sheer weight of population may make public hunting a thing of the past some day a long time in the future.

Visitors should approach the whole bit with an open mind. There's the northerner who announced to me that hunting deer with dogs was for barbarians and stomped off into the swamp with a rifle—for about 200 yards. He came back in 20 minutes, somewhat chastened and convinced that within half an hour he'd have been so lost he would have had no interest in deer. Landmarks are scarce in a flat-bottomed swamp and any kind of level land with foliage above your head is no place to wander carelessly if the sun isn't shining. You can need a compass within 100 yards.

Most folks think of mountain country as being

awesome vastness in which a man can quickly be swallowed up, but ridges and valleys are comparatively easy to follow. Step into a flatwood pine forest or even drive down an unmarked sand road with a lot of turnoffs and you can be misplaced almost immediately. I'm not trying to scare anyone; just showing a beginning Florida gunner has no lead pipe cinch.

Even an old timer can miss in flat country. There's the guide I know in the Everglades country who was putting duck hunters out on strategic sawgrass points for the morning flight.

"Here's the best blind I know of, Doctor," he told one client as the eastern sky colored in anticipation of dawn. "Yesterday morning my son stood right over there and shot his limit of pintails in 20 minutes. Just step out of the boat and wait for shooting time."

The doctor was polite about it and suggested that another gunner be given this top spot, but two other hunters in the skiff insisted so he went over the side in his hip boots. Because the guide had made a minor miscalculation as to the exact loca-

tion, the water was seven feet deep and for a few moments the only signs of the doctor were widening circles on the surface and a floating, camouflaged cap. When he did come up he spouted swamp water, drew a breath and inquired politely: "Just how tall is your boy?"

On a cloudy night I once took two other duck hunters into a mangrove swamp, set out a big batch of decoys and waited for a flight of baldpates that never materialized. When we picked up and started out I found we'd been in the wrong bay. The ducks were all rafted up half a mile away, exactly where I *thought* we'd set up.

An Illinois quail gunner I know drove all the way to northern Florida with a dog box full of expensive pointers, took one look at the terrain, listened to a few rattlesnake stories and drove back to Peoria.

"Hell," he told me, "I wouldn't put my dogs down in that kind of country. I didn't even let them out to exercise until I was in north Georgia."

Some fine bird dogs die of old age in Florida but those of us who love the state will confess that this isn't the easiest area for man's best friend to make a living.

A famous sportsman called a Florida hunting club and asked them if they would guarantee his setter wouldn't get bitten by a snake. When he placed the pooch's value at three thousand bucks the preserve operator declined to offer any personal insurance, saying only that it was the wrong season for rattlers and that he hadn't had any trouble with snakes that year. The man brought his dog and had a fine time anyway.

While we're on the quail subject, let's point to a subtle change in bird behavior. Serious Florida hunters lean toward 4-wheel-drive hunting rigs with which they follow pointers generally, and sometimes setters, through fairly open flats. When the dogs point, the gunners leisurely climb down from their comfy high seats, walk up the birds and get back on the hunting rig. They may even follow singles on wheels.

On plantations or hunting preserves carefully tended for bird hunting, on public wildlife management areas and in lightly hunted districts this still works, but for several reasons the foot-slogging, weed patch gunner is having his innings.

Either through selective breeding (those that live in the open get shot), or through individual perspective, Florida quail in many areas are learning to stick close to heavy cover, and when I speak of heavy cover in Florida I mean foliage a wasp would detour. Competing in hard hunted areas the most successful quail shooters I know are plodding along in snake boots, checking the brush edges early in the morning and late in the evening, and sometimes following a covey into stuff where only an expert can shoot anything longer than a derringer.

You can come in cold and do your own quail hunting, but you must have a dog, preferably experienced in hot weather navigation, and you must either make fruitful local inquiries, hire a guide or take to a preserve.

Most Florida bird dogs are English pointers. There are some setters, German shorthairs and a spatter-
(Continued on next page)

By CHARLES WATERMAN

Fast, open-bored gun is required for Florida quail—most of the time. The majority are bagged within 25 yards.



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ing of the other foreign pointing breeds. In the close-worked brush and weed plots a Brittany is good but he'll seldom stay with a big-going, bramble-scarred English pointer. My own Brittany is fine on chilly days but doesn't take the heat well.

Improved cylinder is the most popular bore for Florida quail and some experts just saw the barrel off to wide open and shoot fast. Quail living in the brush or feeding very close to it get the title of "one shot coveys" and the traditional following of singles can't be done in many cases. Less controlled burning in forest areas, modern farming practices and pressure of vehicle hunting has tipped the scale in favor of early morning and late evening hunting seasons because quail season is still closed.

The mourning dove is Number One American gamebird and certainly draws attention in Florida. Dove hunters are primarily shooters, seldom make much use of dogs and generally keep it a social sport. Most of the big Florida shoots are held on fields known to be current feeding spots. Generally no decoys are used, the gunners simply scattering out with only minor concealment and taking them as they come. There may be 30 or more shooters and if the field is large it takes a lot of guns to keep birds moving. Retrieving dogs are quite helpful but their use is somewhat restricted during early dove seasons because quail seasons are still closed.

Dove seeking visitors can do well with the same open bored gun used for quail, and that's the perfect rig if the birds come in close but there are days when a duck gun is better. One of the best dove shooters I know carries two shotguns with him, a light, open 20-gauge for use when the birds come in close, and a 30-inch-barreled trap gun for high flying days. Dove shooting being what it is he's seldom in doubt as to which gat to point after things get under way.

Don't accept the flat statement that the dove is a typical upland game bird. It's generally flight shooting. Number 7½ shot is almost universally accepted as the best dove load, but if you're using a skeet or improved cylinder gun you might do better with No. 8.

The paid hunts sponsored by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission are open to anyone and afford some of the best dove shooting, but as the season wears on strayed doves will change their habits and you may need to make private contacts. There is some jump shooting of feeding doves in weed patches. Takes time to find them.

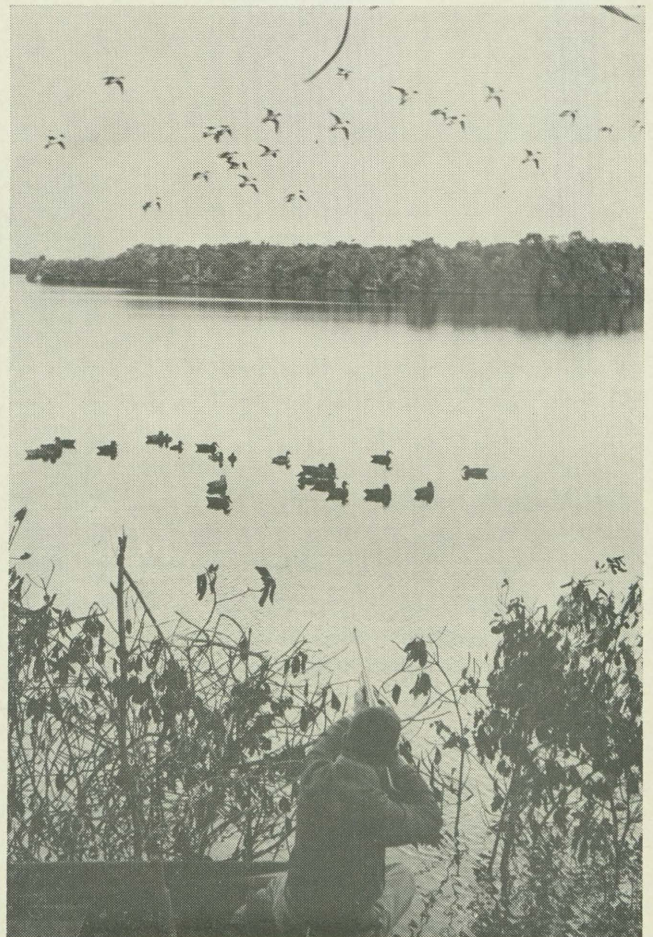
Migratory ducks act about the same in Florida as elsewhere, but the Florida duck is apt to be a little aloof from the standard pattern. This bird,

resembling the black duck and female mallard in general appearance, won't decoy worth a hoot for me. They generally move in small flocks or pairs, are year around residents and sometimes come loafing along within easy range at low altitude, paying no attention to decoys but scaring me into hurried misses.

The wood duck is something special too, and isn't decoyed very often. Open-bored guns along the swampy creeks will give you some jump shooting, and you can either wade the black water or press a boat poler into silent operation. The other productive way is to ambush them when you find where they go to feed in early evening, but you may find they don't whistle down to your chosen oak ridge until nearly the close of evening shooting, and it ruins my whole week to get all set for a sure thing on woodies only to find they've synchronized their watches and flutter in happily one and one-half minutes after shooting became illegal.

There are squirrel hunters who'll tell you anyone who'll blast bushytails with a shotgun is a boor, but spooky grays doing aerial acts in the oak tops won't even stay in the field of my rifle scope. I don't use a shotgun myself but I watch a lot of squirrels leave unscathed.

Possibly the most fun is still hunting with a scoped twenty-two, listening apprehensively to a



There's fine duck hunting in Florida if a visitor makes the right contacts, and studies the country. These pin-tails are over decoys in mangroves of lower Gulf coast.

tiny rustle 'way up high and in back, turning your head by split inches in hope of sighting game and resisting overwhelming temptation to scratch, sneeze, cough or move a cramped leg.

Fox squirrels, much less plentiful, afford a bigger target. In the days when I used to follow target matches with pistols I did fairly well with them using a handgun, but I never attempted running shots.

Best thing about squirrel hunting for the stranger is that squirrel country is easily located and all you need is a gun and permission to hunt unless it's on public land with no public relations required. Camouflaged clothing is a help as it is in dove and duck shooting. Before going further, let's get out and buy a lightweight suit of camouflaged cotton; birds aren't color blind but for deer or squirrels you can use the new bright red mottled outfits.

Let's dig into southern deer hunting. For those who live here my comments are childish; to a visitor they may burn off a lot of fog.

First, the southern deer hunting camp is a bit unique, often being the size of a military outpost. It may be made up of the second or third generation of hunters from the same families to work that particular area. It is even possible that the current users don't see each other except during deer season, not being close friends at all. They may have inherited shares in a camp or lease.

These are extreme cases but the nature of the hunting encourages the same groups to go together year after year. A deer hunt with hounds can be as complex as a guerilla campaign and knowledge of deer routes, sand roads and general terrain may be absolutely essential to success.

Set up a camp of several experienced hunters, a bunch of hounds, several 4-wheel-drive rigs (or swamp buggies in the south), and equip everybody with a walkie-talkie and you begin to get the idea that a Florida deer hunt may not be easy for the stranger to crash. These people are not necessarily unfriendly but they have a lot of money, time and experience invested in their operation, and they aren't likely to share instantly with a stranger whose only credential is a new gun.

Even if you have good deer dogs you may have a tough time getting started in a new area. Coming in cold and houndless your best bet is still hunting (either walking through good deer sections or rigging yourself a stand where moving game is likely to appear). Such still hunts can be managed on game management areas with the advice of those in charge, but days of investigation should precede season opening. A woods vehicle is generally a decided help. The new red camouflage gear is good here.

Deer guns? I have definite views sure to make me some enemies.

With the recent developments in shotgun slugs,



Photo By Jim Brantly

Still hunting for deer without use of dogs can produce happy hunt results. Camouflage clothing is good for this type hunt.

buckshot and shotguns to throw them, I no longer see a place for the open-sighted, short-ranged deer rifle. Up to nearly 100 yards the new slugs will go better than most of us can steer them. At really close range in heavy cover the new buckshot loads pattern in ways undreamed of years ago and a whitetail is no bull elephant.

Against rifles? Not by a long shot. Some of the best deer hunters I know take two guns to camp. One is a buckshot and slug shooting repeating shotgun (and the barrel needn't be long despite rumor, fable and black powder logic). The other is an accurate rifle of adequate caliber with a good scope of low to medium power.

If he travels in a hunting vehicle my friend can decide instantly which gun he's going to hold on his stand. If he thinks his shot will be a quick chance across a back country road through the swamp, he'll take the scattergun. If he's watching a wide burn or an open prairie he grabs the rifle.

It adds up that the open sighted hunting rifle is only a 100-yard weapon unless you have a lot of luck, cold nerves, sharp eyes and a good shooting background. At close range running shots the shotgun is better; out past 100 yards, the scope-sighted rifle.

There's a compromise in the fast-shooting light-
(Continued on next page)



Snakeproofing when hunting is a good idea if the weather's warm, as it usually is in central and south Florida. There are several kinds of snake leggings and boots which will add peace of mind.

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weight semi-auto carbine of a caliber generally too light for effective deer work. It has an excuse when dogs are being used, simply because hounds will generally find cripples that would escape unattended shooters. There is the whittle-em-down school that gets lots of venison by saturation fire. No fun for most of us but they have their argument.

Turkeys are usually killed with shotguns in Florida although the scope-sighted, small caliber rifle is deadly in the hands of expert callers and patient waiters who can also shoot.

Two schools of thought among turkey hunters with shotguns. Although nearly all of them want full choke guns and heavy loads, some prefer small shot aimed at the head and others go for big stuff in the body. Once the bird flies the larger shot is the best bet. If a confident caller can get his bird in close and hit him on the ground there's much to be said for the head shot and small pellets out to something like 35 or 40 yards. Beyond that the

head could be bypassed, even with a tightly bored gun, and the small shot that strayed into the body might cause a cripple.

Turkey, deer, squirrel and quail populations are very high in Florida. The deer are generally well educated. The quail are taking to the brush more than in former years; turkeys never were stupid.

Now, something about the little-publicized phases of Florida hunting.

There are lots of rabbits, both cottontails and marsh types, seldom hunted except by youngsters. Most rabbit hunting in Florida is best done with shotguns as they're found in tight cover. The marsh hen (rail) hunting of early season is largely neglected and any fairly open shotgun is fine.

Snipe winter in Florida marshes by uncounted thousands and afford excellent gunning without dogs, guides or even extensive information. Rent a boat, find a lake edge with just a skim of water on top and mud beneath. Use No. 9 shot and either an improved cylinder or a modified barrel will do the job. Hip boots or squishing sneakers will be satisfactory.

Crow shooting is fine, both for the big Florida models and the squeaky little fish crows. Most of this is shotgunning although careful users of medium varmint rifles can have fun. Trouble is in finding a rifle type backstop for crows in trees.

The other varmints, including coons, fox and bobcats are not often good targets for the long range rifleman in Florida. They're enjoyed more with dogs; this is hound country.

Okay, now we'll get to the snakes.

They're not nearly as plentiful as some snake haters feel but like lightning or misguided automobiles they can kill you very dead. I have never had a really close call but I know people who have.

I have friends who hunt the marshes and fields in canvas shoes, even barefoot, even where moccasins or rattlers are known to be fairly plentiful. Some of these friends are subconscious ground watchers; others are wallowing in fool luck.

In warm weather in good snake country I recommend snake-proof boots, snake proof leggings or snake pants. Hip boots, the experts tell me, are pretty good protection, even though they could be pierced under certain circumstances.

If you're a newcomer to the Florida game country you may forget to keep close tab on the ground; you may not be a good judge of snake country; you may worry about snakes. You'll hunt better and shoot better if you have snake protection.

I can't tell you about dogs and snakes. Snakes kill dogs in Florida but, as I say, many active hunting dogs die of old age here. It may be that the native southern pup learns better than an adult import. I simply don't know.

Florida is pretty good hunting and just try to find a longer season! ●

BOATING



By ELGIN WHITE

THE SUMMER SEASON of boating is over, but in Florida we have a year-round season that taxes many boatmen for new areas of adventure. Our waters are busy every day of the year with pleasure craft seeking new things to do and new places to go.

And, I want to take a bit of space to compliment an outfit that certainly does a great job and receives little or no recognition for it. I'm talking about the Florida Boating Council, a safety-oriented outfit under the Florida Board of Conservation that sees to it Floridians and visitors alike are given a chance to enjoy our bountiful waterways.

The Florida Boating Council is a safety patrol. As such, it gets cussed at a lot simply because of its basic duty as a law enforcement outfit. But this is one "fuzz" that is a peach. Just ask the guys who have been pulled into port by a FBC patrol boat.

Lieutenant Jim White, Field Supervisor of the Boating Safety Unit, said the FBC averages a "pull in to port" of 12-15 per month throughout the year. "Most of our rescues involve people who are out of gas or inoperative because of motor failure," White said. "Our main function, of course, is safety inspections on boats in Florida waters, and we check approximately 10-15,000 boats every year on safety inspections. But in the course of this work we have come upon many a stranded boatman, and the smile on their faces and the relief they express when we come to them makes it all worthwhile. There is nothing like the feeling of helplessness when you are out in open water in a small boat, with no radio, no flares or other means of emergency communication, stranded with an inoperative or balky motor."

"I guess that's one time these folks really fall in love with the 'fuzz' as they call us," White smiled.

I'll say. We were on a cruise a couple of years ago on the St. Johns River when our motor just up and quit. We had safety gear, of course, like cushions, life preservers, etc., but no radio, no flares, and it was getting pitch dark. We were about convinced we were either going to be run-down by a tug boat, Navy destroyer or worse, or else wind up at dawn about midway between there and the Virgin Islands when an FBC patrol boat came upon us. We got a warm and friendly, "Hi ya!" from the

Boating Safety

safety inspections of boats and boating operations—for survival—become more and more important as water activities continue to increase

officer, a great big toothy smile, and were hauled back to Jacksonville.

These are times when you feel like the complete idiot you are for getting in that predicament in the first place. The Florida Boating Council is moving man and mountain trying to keep people from getting in this shape, too. They start from the bottom, getting to the youngsters first with a Junior Boatman's Course in water safety. They appear at civic clubs to explain safe boating, they are on radio and television, they give newspaper interviews, they appear at boat shows, state fairs, county fairs or anywhere else they can get the message across.

Our big problem is one of heeding the good news. Just like going to church, I guess, we all go because it is the thing to do, but how many of us listen to the sermon?

Tell you what, if you're really serious about this boating business, start listening to the Florida Boating Council, the various Sheriff's offices, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and even to PRAVDA if that's what they're preaching. Boating safety is as important as automobile safety, and in many instances much more so, especially when entire families are involved in boating adventures.

I learned my lesson. Hope everyone else will, too.

WHILE ON THE subject of safe boating, we in Florida should pay particular attention to our weather signals that the Coast Guard uses in its warning systems. Some of the warning systems have been changed in wording by the CG, and as Stan

(Continued on next page)



The Florida Safety Patrol met these two fishing enthusiasts with motor trouble, and gave them a welcome tow back to port.

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Davies reported not long ago in the *Florida TIMES-UNION* in Jacksonville, it has some boaters a little confused.

The only change is that the warning which used to be described as a "Whole Gale Warning" is now referred to as "Storm Warning." It is broadcast by radio, and the signals are hoisted near boating areas when winds of 54 mph or more are expected.

Here are the current weather warning signals now being used:

SMALL CRAFT: one red pennant displayed by day, or a red light over a white light at night. This signal is flown, or announced by radio, when winds as high as 33 knots (38 mph) are forecast, and sea or lake conditions are considered dangerous to small pleasure craft in the area.

GALE WARNING: Two red pennants displayed by day or a white over a red light at night. This indicates winds from 34 to 47 knots (39 to 53 mph) forecast.

STORM WARNING: This was the one formerly called "Whole Gale Warning." The signal is one square red flag with a black center by day, or two red lights at night. It indicates that winds of 48 knots (54 mph) and above are forecast.

HURRICANE WARNING: This warning is broadcast and signals flown only in connection with a tropical cyclone or hurricane and indicates wind velocities of 64 knots (72 mph) or more. The signal is two square red flags with black centers during the day and a white light between two red lights at night.

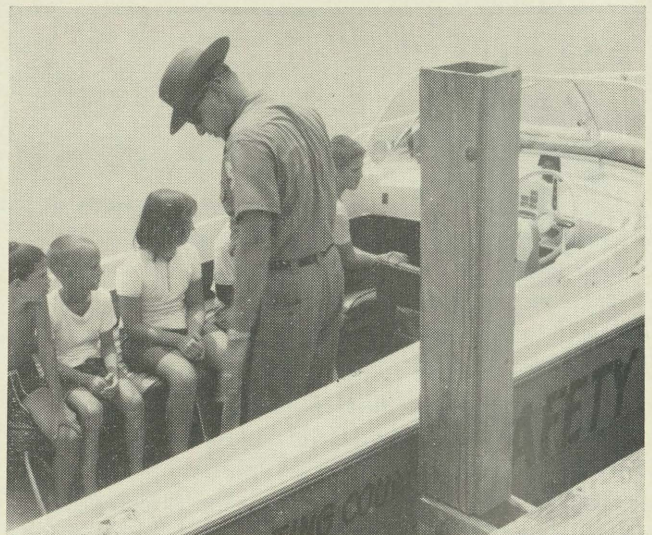
We all are always talking about the weather, but to boatmen, weather talk is something much greater than random conversation. A boatman's very life depends on observing close weather rules. There is no legal compulsion to observing the weather afloat. If you want to be a real nut and dare time and tide, it is your own business. These danger signals are merely warnings for your own personal safety.

Some other weather info you might keep in mind:

Can you see a thunderstorm actually building up? Yes, you can. If you see a very rapid build-up of cumulus (white fluffy) clouds to a great height, then the top flattens out into an anvil shape, that's a thunderhead, and under it a thunderstorm is brewing up its pot of tea.

A line squall: This is sort of a string of thunderstorms occurring along an extensive front. For boaters it is extremely dangerous. When one is in sight sailboats should be down to minimum sail and kept headed into the wind preferably with the engine running.

If you are caught in stormy weather at sea (and with all the advanced signals we have nowadays you never should be) remember to keep heading into the wind and heavy sea with your engine



The Florida Boating Council engages in youth safety training programs, including courses in water safety for youngsters right on up through their teen years.

running as slowly as possible. Then you simply ride her out. If you are in a sailboat, Stan Davies advises, with no engine, take in all sail and throw out a sea anchor—even a plastic pail on the end of 50 feet of rope will be of some help.

Best suggestion of all, to my way of thinking, is keep in port any time nasty weather is kicking up. But we have those among us who thrive on challenging the elements . . . and they are the ones the Florida Boating Council, the Coast Guard and Sheriff's Patrol are constantly searching for late at night. Why try it?

BOATERS, AND particularly boat manufacturers, are keeping a rather tight scrutiny on proposed legislation to let the Secretary of Transportation dictate safety items for boats. This smacks of more federal control from Washington to me. The Federal octopus already is dictating what we can like or dislike, what we can see or not see, what we can do or not do, and with little else to conquer the Feds are now turning their attention to boating.

Usually Federal legislation of this type is for the good of all mankind, so uttereth the Supreme Court. But Florida officials as well as manufacturers are watching this one closely . . . they are inclined to think this would give too much authority to the Secretary of Transportation. We think so, too. After all, look what is happening to our school systems since dictatorial power was set in. Let's not have the same thing happen to boating.

WE HAVE HAD the opportunity on several previous occasions to report the big press party thrown by Carl Kiekhaefer and his Mercury gang in the past, and as usual, Carl's bashes just get better and better.

This year we were flown all the way up to Montreal, Canada. From there we boarded buses for a

50-mile jaunt up into the mountain country that absolutely takes your breath away.

We arrived at the Lac Nord and the chateau L' Esterel, and the carpet was so red some of these bleeding hearts that are squishing all over America wouldn't even show on 'em.

The chateau is located near the beautiful little city of Ste. Marguerite, which looks like it came right out of the picture books. It was somewhat difficult for us to get our minds on why Carl had brought us all up there . . . and that was to see the new 1969 line of Mercs, but we did get around to it.

As usual, the Merc boys out-did Hollywood in putting on the parade of new boats and motors under the stars, in the spotlights, and with an accompaniment of fireworks.

Kiekhaefer always has called a spade a spade, and part of his remarks in his welcoming address hit at responsibility in reporting, something we all try to have. He said, in part, ". . . your treatment or slant on boating news is obviously important to us . . . we rise or fall to the pace you set for us, to a greater degree than you might realize.

"With this importance there obviously comes a high degree of responsibility. In this business, like in any other, there are many phonies and the burden of careful evaluation of their releases falls upon you. It seems to me that every time a boat company changes hands . . . and that is quite frequently . . . the new buyer's announcement is of plans for expansion, doubling of facilities, expansion of market areas, etc. If all these dreams had really come true, there would be boat plants on top of boat plants covering the United States."

How true that is . . . but it is human nature, I think, for new management to feel this necessity of doubling everything. They usually wind up doubling their losses.

We got our chance on Saturday of our visit with the Mercury people to get a run down and actually test drive some of the new 1969 motors and boat models, and this is always the high point of these press parties.

Kiekhaefer always has a big announcement at each of these parties, and the big news this year was the unveiling of Mercury's new 800 series, marking Kiekhaefer's entry in the 80 hp class with a 66.5 cubic-inch, four-in-line motor. The new motor features Mercury's Direct Charging system. Charging is the process of replacing the burnt gases after a firing stroke with a fresh charge in the cylinders. The new system takes its place beside two earlier methods known as cross-flow scavenging and loop-scavenging. Direct Charging incorporates design elements of the earlier systems while improving the charging scavenging sequence for substantial gains in engine performance. ●

What Made America Great?

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

I PROFESS TO BEING no prophet or seer. But during three score and ten years I have developed certain philosophies regarding the natural elements and patterns of human behavior which have made this nation rugged and strong—and which now appear to be in danger of decay.

Recognizing the romantic aura which surrounded the first explorations of this new continent—explorations prompted by ambitious and sometimes greedy monarchs as well as individuals of like proclivities, the real core of our strength developed through the migration of many plain God-fearing people fleeing the pressures of nobility, religious strictures, and lack of opportunity. Boundless natural resources gave impetus to a social revolution which resulted in a democratic form of government never before tried.

Generally speaking, the basic urge from the time of the first colonies in Virginia and Massachusetts was much the same. It meant opportunity for people to prosper within the framework of new freedoms according to their individual abilities. It carried through the westering migration of their descendants as well as the influx of the Irish fleeing a potato famine, the Germans escaping monarchy before the Civil War, and later the immigration of Scandinavians and southern Europeans. It meant all were willing to face danger, and most of them did.

Ethnic backgrounds often determined where people put down their roots. In the beginning many Irish, English and Germans sought farm lands or became small tradesmen. The Irish that came later helped build the railroads, the great lines of iron highways that criss-crossed the continent. Some Scandinavians, Russians and Finns became loggers because of their heritage; others homesteaded the prairies. Still other nationalities sought the mining regions because of homeland traditions, while some from all ethnic groups settled in the rapidly expanding cities.

Even though a predominantly English, Irish, and Scots gentry conceived our Constitutional form of government, those who followed gratefully accepted the equalities, liberties and opportunities granted to all. Although a vast improvement over any European system, it was not perfect. It allowed slavery, indentured servants, and imprisonment for debts. A Civil War ended slavery and enlightened legislation gradually improved many conditions for the common man.

Under this new government the different nationalities and races struggled to attain their individual and collective goals, to assimilate each other's

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culture, and to learn how to live peacefully within the concepts of a new and challenging form of self-government. While this new nation was fomenting within a crucible of rapid expansion, no one expected a guaranteed wage, a subsidy, and education on a silver platter. The basic inspiration for everyone came from the fact that every man could prosper in proportion to his intelligence, abilities, and ambitions.

Nothing in the foreseeable future is going to make human behavior perfect, but in the creation of this new nation people were given hope within the framework of equality never before conceived. It gave people strength, courage, and stature so long denied them. They gladly accepted the discipline of hard work, long hours and much self-denial to achieve those goals.

What made the United States of America a strong, prosperous nation? A new form of government was certainly one factor; opportunities for people who were spiritually and physically starved was another. But certainly a vast untapped storehouse of natural resources—resources the like of which no European had ever seen or hoped to own and possess and convert into useful products—was the lodestone for achievement. If the men and women who developed this new civilization appear to have been overly aggressive or wasteful at times, it simply was an outgrowth of ages of little or no opportunity and much previous self-denial. They asked nothing but the opportunity to float their own stick, as the mountain man expressed it.

Now we have an unrest akin to revolution among some college students who are so well fed and clothed that they do not know what to do with their time. Many are subsidized by taxpayer money or from private foundations. They are supposed to be a rising generation of intelligentsia. They were born into a civilization created by the sweat and toil of others; too few have ever really had to scratch for a living. They have no concept of independent self-sufficiency. Frugality and plain hard work seem to be dirty words.

They seem to feel it is their divine right, or at least a matter of course, that they can live from the fruits of the more industrious. They have little understanding or appreciation of the efforts and struggles which made possible whatever good life we have in the United States, despite some inequities. But most lamentable, these mavericks have no knowledge of the resources created through providence that have made these United States a great nation.

This article, and others that will appear in the next several issues, were prepared by Ernest F. Swift shortly before July 24, 1968, when he passed away at Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

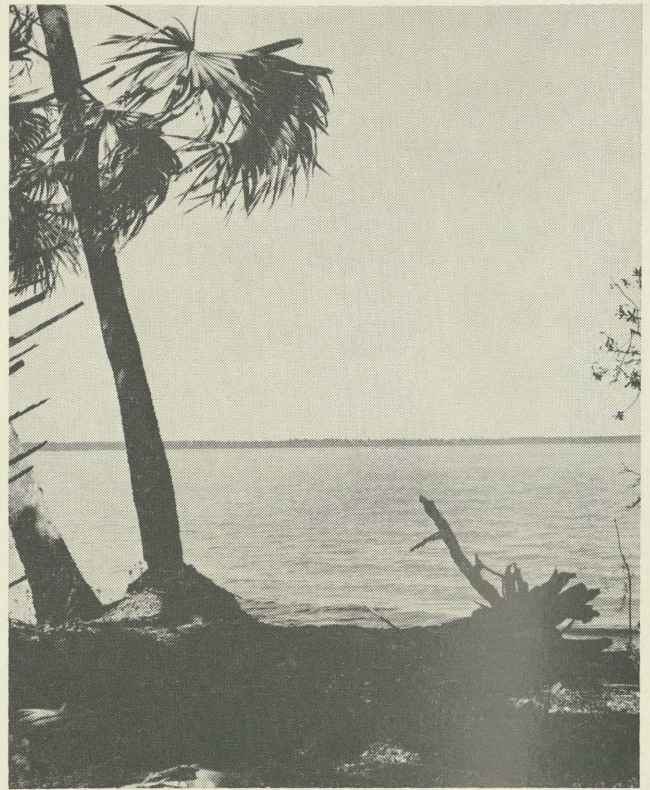


Photo By Gene Smith

The waste and misuse of our country's vast natural resources in the early days of settlement can be partially understood. But continued violation of the sanctity of clean waters and wilderness areas—at many levels—defies logical explanation.

They are, nevertheless, the generation which one day must carry the torch of conservation. How well are they being prepared? Have they any perspective as to what allows them this idle time in which to revolt? Not only does someone have to work while they march and destroy property, but someone has to stand guard over the nation's resources, someone has to practice husbandry or we will end up as scavengers of a wasted continent. If these young rebels are attempting to reconstruct society, they are ignoring the very elements which make any society possible, even as imperfect as any of them may be.

It is to be hoped, and probably is true, that there is only a small minority of these pinks, punks and dropouts, because there certainly is a strong counter effort to educate the coming generation in the ecology of nature. A true respect for the natural elements cannot help but bring forth a sense of responsibility and discipline. If rebels without a cause had to put some of their vagrant hours on the land, they would sleep better nights and have less time to bay at the moon. Campus riots are not triggered by an empty stomach but by too much of everything of a material nature. People who see the shadow of running a little hungry if they do not discipline themselves run a better race than those who have no goals other than to fill in idle time. ●

Hunting Plans

HUNTING



By EDMUND McLAURIN

it will aid the hunter to properly prepare and pack all types of hunting gear—especially guns and ammunition—when planning for travels

UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES and wildlife observances are the spice of hunting. They also tend to live vividly in memory.

Even unpleasant happenings furnish memories. Fortunately, most hunting experiences are pleasant of memory.

Many persons have lived a lifetime in Florida without seeing a Florida panther in the wild. I look back on four different occasions when I was privileged to have close viewing of one of the big, free roaming, tawny cats. Of the four I saw, one was in the Everglades, one in the area of the Myakka River, and two were widely separated residents of the Ocala National Forest.

On two additional occasions I have heard one of these now protected animals, but failed to see it.

Once while hunting, I came to an abandoned, rotting cabin deep in the woods, and rested my rifle while I walked around and inspected the interesting old house. Turning a corner, I came face to face with a full grown black bear. We saw each other at the same instant. I made a dash for my rifle; the bear made a dash for the nearby brush. We never saw each other again.

Another hunting season, while on a trip in Big Cypress Swamp, I walked through a narrow opening in the brush and found myself in the center of a group of five large water moccasins. I had my rifle; the action was in my favor.

Seemingly, each season has something to contribute. I look ahead with anticipation to hunting days and experiences of this season, but I doubt if I will ever experience anything to top what happened in the Ocala National Forest during the 1967 season. It might be classified as a dubious story—except that I had witnesses. It is a little story in itself.

Deer hunting companions Rex Williams (a Miami Post Office employee) and retiree A. W. "Johnny" Johnson (of Jacksonville) agreed to join me in a slow-walk deer stalk across a three mile wide section of the Ocala National Forest. The agreement was that we should spread out, but keep abreast and within sight of each other as we advanced, for reasons of hunting safety.

After a deliberately prolonged walk, punctuated by many stops and much looking and listening, we finally emerged on the far side boundary road.

As I stepped from the brush, I noticed an opened copy of a magazine on the ground, still wet with morning dew. It was a copy of the November 1967 issue of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE*. The opened, slightly wrinkled and damp, pages carried the caption and illustrations of "The Fortunate Few," a bear hunting feature story, and the by-line of one Edmund McLaurin (me!), for a personal "Believe-it-or-not."

Consider that some 16,000 other hunters were reportedly active in the Forest during Opening Week, plus the fact that the Forest is approximately one-half the size of the state of Rhode Island. Yet, despite enormous odds against the possibility, I emerged from the brush at the exact spot where a discarded copy was lying roadside—and more specifically open to printed page bearing my name!

ANYTHING THAT HELPS foster better public relations between licensed hunter and landowner helps the sport of hunting.

It may seem out of order to even suggest it, but fact of the matter is you'll probably get along better, as a hunter, with farmers and dairymen, if you are thoughtful enough to retrieve and pocket your empty shotshell cases after an afternoon of dove hunting or quest after quail.

The reason is that cattle are unselective grazers. As they slowly move along munching grass and other edible vegetation, they can be attracted to and pick up shiny empty shell or cartridge cases—mostly the former, since they are invariably more abundant—along with green stuff.

Once down the hatch, these indigestible items can do serious damage to an animal's digestive tract, especially if the foreign object in an animal is unsuspected by the owner and no timely veterinary surgery is had.

You owe your landowner host every consideration for his grazing livestock. It takes but a moment to retrieve and pocket empty shotshell or cartridge cases after ejection from gun. Cattle cannot pick up and eat such potentially dangerous discards if they are not there to be mouthed and possibly swallowed.

LONG DISTANCE transportation can be rough on long guns—especially those shipped by common carrier.

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During a flying trip to North Carolina, I watched a friend's suitcase fall off a distant loading ramp and break open. Had it been a cased hunting rifle instead of a suitcase filled with clothes and personal belongings, the damage might have had more serious import.

Where considerable travel distance is involved, with possible handling by many persons, I believe in protecting a firearm to a degree beyond normally expected treatment.

Some years ago, Outers Laboratories manufactured and marketed a dandy hard type case made of wood-grained vinyl covered aluminum. The case had strong triple snap-locks and a center key lock.

Interior was lined with blue velvet and wool-padded straps were provided to secure the contained rifle or shotgun so that it would not slide around. There was even a small opening-and-closing vent in one end of the case to permit air passage and keep the interior from possibly sweating from sudden temperature changes.

I used to improve the incorporated long gun protection—at least, to my way of thinking—by keeping my rifle or shotgun in its usual case, then putting all inside the hard housing.

After I had packed remaining space with a couple of boxes of ammunition, a take-down stainless steel cleaning rod and Silicote gun wiping cloth, there was seldom need to fasten the case's inside straps around the gun, although I usually did that, too.

Using one of the Outers Laboratories luggage type carrying cases, I transported scope sighted rifles and valuable shotguns under all sorts of conditions, without contents suffering a scratch or damaging jolt.

Unfortunately, Outers Laboratories stopped making the case—probably because it cost too much to manufacture and still sell at a popular price.

Jet-Aer Corporation, Paterson, New Jersey 07524, makers of the G-66 line of gun care preparations, is now producing an excellent sequel, with some added improvements.

Case frame is solid aluminum, with opening edges reinforced with tongue and groove metal trim—which makes neat, tight closure.

Instead of using dirt-collecting piano type hinges, Jet-Aer is using heavy steel hinges riveted to the metal frame. Body covering is hard double-wall extra heavy duty ABS plastic laminated to a scuff resistant plastic coating of wood grain simulation.

Interior is lined with multi-layered urethane foam, so that a cased rifle or shotgun rests on the equivalent of a foam rubber mattress and has similar top covering.

There are no inside fastening straps, but they are

not needed, as the weight of the cased firearm and case closing pressure will cause the firearm to settle down and rest securely in its bed.

Outside lock is set flush with the case's frame. The lock has two keys and lock functioning is positive.

The provided carrying handle feels comfortable in the hand.

When set down, as one would set down luggage, the Jet-Aer gun case's bottom is kept from touching floor or ground, by base legs at ends.

Several sizes of cases are available. You can get small ones to carry only handguns, as well as larger cases intended for single rifles or shotguns and, in largest sizes, for safely carrying two rifles or shotguns. The larger sizes will also accommodate the usual complement of small accessories most shooters carry on field trips.

Seemingly, the new Jet-Aer hard style gun carrying cases should solve the baggage damage problem. A new product, the cases may be hard to find. I visited eight different sporting goods stores before I could find the Jet-Aer cases in stock. Like you, I had seen them advertised in the national outdoor magazines.

If unable to make quick acquisition of a needed hard type gun case for use in long distance automobile travel, or pre-shipment of equipment by common carrier, I can only suggest two last ditch alternatives.

One is for the hunter to cut pieces of foam rubber and fit them around sights and other vulnerable components of his firearm, and then wrap the firearm—desirably also in usual protective gun case—inside rolled sleeping bag, making certain the rifle or shotgun cannot possibly slip out, like a hot dog inadvertently dropped from between the halves of a bun.

A decided improvement—if time permits—is to tailor a compartment wrapper by sewing compartments in a folded blanket. The idea is to insert one or more firearms and their accessories in this wrapper, and place the wrapper-liner in the center of bedroll.

Make the compartments about 10 inches wide, lengthwise of the half-folded blanket, after stitching the sides. Preferably, the open end should have an 8-inch fold-over flap, and ties should be provided at various locations. If two long guns are carried, place them in the roll, muzzle and butt ends alternated.

Usually a planned hunting trip represents considerable outlay of cash and invested time. The gun to be used is a prime ingredient; it should be given every possible protection during transportation. Even so, it is considered trip insurance to carry a spare—also well protected. ●

Fish Management Notes

TWO MONSTROUS channel catfish were caught within 30 days in Bear Lake Fish Management Area, located near Munson, Florida in the Blackwater State Forest.

The most recent catch weighed 43 pounds, measured 42 inches in length and 27 inches in girth. It was caught in September by Vernon Cooper, co-owner and newscaster of radio station WCNU, Crestview.

A 38-pounder was caught in August by J. E. Grice of Milton, a heavy equipment operator for the Florida Forest Service.

Cooper had previously caught channel catfish of 38 and 40 pounds among an estimated 100 he has landed since Bear Lake was opened by the Game and Fish Commission. He has learned to use heavy tackle to land the big fellows—a Mitchell 302 reel loaded with 60-pound test monofilament line, a 10½-foot Garcia surf rod and a big 8-0 hook. Mullet heads have proven to be a good bait, says Cooper.

Bear Lake was constructed and stocked by the Commission in 1959-60. It was opened to public fishing in May 1961 and since that date has consistently provided some of the best sport fishing in the Florida panhandle.

The 107-acre lake is reached by taking State Road 4 through the Blackwater State Forest in Santa Rosa County.

Paul Terry Eubanks, 24, a north Florida native, is one of the newer members of the technical staff of the Fish Management Division. He was employed in June as a fishery biologist and assigned to the Lake Management and Research Project as assistant project leader. He resides at Lakeland.

Terry was born at Quincy, Florida but attended elementary and high school at Chattahoochee, where he graduated in 1962. He received his B.S. degree in zoology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1967. He taught science and mathematics a year at Marianna High School in Jackson County before being employed by the Commission.

A member of the 160th Military Police Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Tallahassee, Terry faces a limited tour of active duty in the future, after which he plans to resume his Commission duties.

He is currently compiling fisherman creel data collected on Lakes Harris, Griffin and Hollingsworth over the past several years for statistical and computer analysis. This part of the Lake Management and Research Project is being conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Statistics, North Carolina State University at Raleigh.

Terry's hobbies include hunting, fishing, water skiing and raising tropical fish. He is particularly fond of duck hunting and fishing for bass on arti-



Photo By Art Runnels

Vernon Cooper, Crestview, is shown hefting his 43-pound channel catfish he caught in the Bear Lake Fish Management Area. Cooper used surf rod and 60-pound test line.

ficial lures—and heartily endorses Lake Seminole (Jim Woodruff Reservoir) as the place to enjoy some of the best of both.

CONTINUING investigations keep turning up more and more widely dispersed “walking catfish” in the Everglades Region. Biologists Vernon Ogilvie and Bob Goodrich, West Palm Beach, say the exotic fish have “almost certainly gained access to Conservation Areas I and II.” In a recent report they say the celebrated imports, capable of breathing air and waddling along over land for considerable distances, have extended their known range “considerably southward in Broward County.”

The fish was first discovered in Florida's public waters in March 1967 when a canepole fisherman lifted a 16-inch specimen from a drainage canal in eastern Palm Beach County. Thousands have since been removed from the same vicinity.

Clarias catfishes occur in many parts of India, Asia and Africa. The species loose in Florida waters is *Clarias batrachus*, which ranges naturally throughout southern Asia and over parts of India. Adult specimens reach a maximum size of about 20 inches.

Ogilvie says, “It is impossible to predict what the long range effects of these fish will be in Florida but it certainly looks like they are here to stay.”

They are edible. ●

Registration vs. Conservation

By JOHN MADSON and ED KOZICKY

Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation

MUCH IS BEING MADE of the fact that Americans own more guns than any other people in the world.

At the same time, no one has bothered to mention that Americans also have the world's greatest wildlife conservation effort—and the wildlife to prove it.

If the indoor public has bothered to think about it at all, this appears to be a contradiction. But the fact is, millions of us have guns because we have wildlife, and wildlife because we have guns. Guns and wildlife are the Siamese twins of modern resource management. What happens, then, if they are separated by political surgery? What would be the effect of strict gun registration and licensing laws upon the American program of wildlife conservation?

Proposed federal gun registration and licensing will discourage gun ownership, not because of cost, but because of the harassment that goes with it:

Wildlife Officer Notes

FIVE LIEUTENANTS—supervisors of wildlife officers—have been promoted to the newly created rank of captain, according to Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee.

The new captains, who are responsible for law enforcement duties in the five Commission regions, are Martin H. Foxworthy, formerly in the Everglades Region, to Panama City; Frank Johnson, promoted in the Northeast Region to the Lake City office; Roscoe Hamilton, promoted in the Central Region to the Ocala office; David L. Starling, formerly from the Northeast Region, to Lakeland, and J. B. Jordan, from the South Florida Region, now assigned to the West Palm Beach office.

Frye said, "The newly named Law Enforcement captains serve under the direction of Major Brantley Goodson, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division, Tallahassee. They assumed duties directed for many years by the five regional managers, who served in the dual role of regional administrators and regional law enforcement heads. The regional managers are now able to devote their time to the administration of their respective regions."

The five promotions, which became effective August 30, 1968, were made on the basis of competitive examinations. The positions were filled without adding any new Commission employees by reducing the number of law enforcement areas—and area supervisors—in the state from 20 to 15 and expanding the number of counties under each.

fingerprinting, photographs, affidavits from doctors and police officers, frequent renewals of permits, separate permits for each gun, permits to buy ammunition, etc., etc.

As guns go, so goes hunting. And as hunting goes, so goes wildlife conservation as we know it.

Most of today's hunters are casual sportsmen who may hunt only on opening day or, at most, three or four days in a season. Come fall, they'd just as soon be doing something else. These sometimes hunters, faced with cumbersome gun registration and licensing, are likely to say the hell with it and spend Saturday afternoon in front of TV.

Strict gun registration and licensing will eventually drive millions of these casual players out of the game. This would mean great losses in hunting license and fee revenues that are now earmarked for wildlife restoration. Since 1939, sportsmen have contributed over \$339,000,000 to federal aid in wildlife restoration through the famous Pittman-Robertson Program that is financed by a 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. In addition, millions of dollars in federal duck stamp receipts and state hunting license fees are used to finance state and federal wildlife conservation programs. **No part of these wildlife programs is paid from any general tax funds. They are financed entirely by sportsmen.**

Losing these millions in conservation revenue would be bad enough. But to make matters worse, most of this money would be lost to areas that can least afford to lose it—the densely populated eastern states that need all the wildlife conservation and public land they can get.

Conservation leaders take a grim view of wildlife conservation's future if law-abiding citizens are unnecessarily discouraged in purchasing, possessing, and transporting guns for hunting.

Thomas Kimball, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation, made a strong statement about this on June 28 before the Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He said that hunters strongly resent being placed in a category with criminals, assassins and anarchists just because they enjoy hunting as quality outdoor recreation. Legitimate gun owners, Kimball explained, have concluded that some legislators and law enforcement officials want to solve the crime problem by making guns inaccessible and, in effect, disarming the people.

Kimball's hope, and the hope of all conservation leaders, is that Congress does not support any approach which tends to eliminate the American hunter—and his financial support of American wildlife conservation. ●

For that BIG ONE that didn't get away



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.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

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.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

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Only fishing citation applications received within
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The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

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City _____ State _____ Zip No. _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

Signature of Applicant _____

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



Sparrow Hawk (female)

Photo By Michael Fogarty

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